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On behalf of all of us in FBIS I wish to express appreciation to our readers who have guided our efforts throughout the years.

4 March 1981

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BRIEFS

GAS PRICE HIKE--Gas prices went up yesterday by one cent per litre, said the Acting Minister of Finance, the Hon. Ernest Vesey. The price increase is for gas, diesel and autocycle mix. Mr Vesey noted that this increase is the first since February last year and "was necessary to cover dealers' higher operating costs." Mr Vesey did say, however, that the oil companies agreed that there would be no increase in the price of fuel delivered to the service stations this month. This agreement came after the companies met at their regular monthly meeting recently. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 Jan 81 p 3]

CSO: 3025

BRIEFS

GASOLINE INCREASE--Roseau, Dominica, Wednesday (CANA)--Dominican motorists are paying an increase of 61 cents more for a gallon of petrol as of today. The Ministry of Trade has announced the new price of 5.71. It said a combination of rising world prices and oil and the reduction of the existing waiver of duty and tax on gasoline was responsible for the increased price. However, the duty and tax on diesel and kerosene will remain unchanged. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Jan 81 p 9]

CSO: 3025

OIL IMPORT COSTS DRIVING UP ELECTRICITY BILLS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Increases in electricity charges have been announced by the Jamaica Public Service Company in a statement which says that even further increases are coming.

The statement reads:

"There have been further increases in the price of fuel oil used by Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd., to generate electricity. Between November 5 and December 4, 1980, a series of five increases on the Kingston Refinery posted price raised the cost to the company from US\$29.97 (J\$53.59) per barrel to US\$34.26 (J\$61.26) per barrel.

The increase in the fuel oil price to JPSCo. means further upward adjustment of 10.24¢ per kilowatt hour was passed on to consumers in early December. The latest price increase will raise the fuel adjustment to 13.84¢ per kilowatt.

The fuel clause has been a factor in the JPS billing system since 1952. The rates which were in effect then had a fuel base of J\$1.87 per barrel. The fuel clause provides for the fuel rate applied to customers' bills to move upward or downward to reflect changes in the price of oil. It is applied equally to all customers on a per kilowatt hour basis; the customer who uses 20 kwh pays the same unit rate as the customer who uses 20,000 kwh.

For most residential and commercial customers and all large industrial customers, the fuel portion of the electric bill now exceeds the energy charge. The energy charge is the basic rates charged by the company to cover all costs other than fuel: wages, materials, services and general expenses of providing the electricity service.

In the early fifties, the fuel adjustment was almost always a credit and was shown as a separate item on the bill. In the mid-fifties the price of fuel stabilized to the extent that it was no longer necessary to show the fuel adjustment as a separate item on customers' bills.

When the price of petroleum products began the dramatic upward movement in 1973, however, Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd. resumed the practice of showing the

the fuel adjustment as a separate item on customers' bills. The fuel adjustment has increased from \$2.58¢ in July 1974 to today's level of \$13.84¢.

The price of fuel bought by JPSCo, in September 1980 was J\$42.61 per barrel. In October the price was J\$44.83 and as of January 1, 1981 J\$61.26. This means an increase of J\$18.65 per barrel in the price of fuel used to produce electricity since September of last year.

It is expected that there will be ever further increases as a result of the recent decision by OFEC to again raise oil prices.

CSO: 3025

BRIEFS

ENERGY USE SURVEY--The energy unit of the Ministry of Mining and Energy and the Marketing Research Service Company Ltd. are currently conducting surveys of the utilisation of energy in manufacturing concerns throughout Jamaica. This exercise forms part of a major research programme designed to measure efficiency levels of energy usage in the major petroleum-product consuming areas. These sectors are Household, Industry, Commerce, Agriculture, Tourism and Transport. Surveys in the household and agricultural sectors have already been completed. On completion of the exercise, accurate projections will be made on the consumption of energy in these sectors. The survey will also provide basic data upon which a National Energy Accounting system will be developed, according to A.P.I. [Text] [Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 11 Jan 81 p 14]

CSO: 3025

INCREASED PRODUCTION IN 1981 IS CARICOM'S BEST HOPE

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 7 Jan 81 p 4

[Article by Hubert Williams]

[Text] Sharply increased production is the Caribbean Community's greatest hope for reducing the problems it must face in 1981.

Of the many economic factors which helped to impose a crushing burden on the Community in 1980, domestic production appears to be the only one over which it can exert some control.

There is no hope at all of national governments doing so with oil, or interest rates on external borrowings, or import prices, the three of which together formed the rock against which were shattered any regional hopes of economic recovery over the past 12 months.

The prospects which oil, interest rates and import prices present for the immediate future are even bleaker.

In the case of oil, supplies to the non-producing CARICOM countries will bring a billion-dollar (U.S.) burden in 1981, regardless of whether they can hold consumption down to the 1980 levels.

The question also is: Can they curtail use of energy and still implement a programme for accelerated development?

Jamaica, by population the biggest CARICOM state and by geographic location currently the most vital to U.S. interests, will in 1981 be importing about half a billion dollars (U.S.) in oil.

Of the regional states, it is Jamaica too that will come under the heaviest burden from the present high commercial rates from western financial sources.

Because the island's economy is in the worst position, its needs are greatest and it has been pulling heaviest on short-term loans.

Year end net foreign reserves are likely to be at the minus US\$450 million level.

Gross National Debt is more than US\$2 billion of which the foreign debt is about 40 per cent.

During 1980, official estimates were that Jamaica was eating up more than half of its export earnings merely to service its foreign debt.

The administration there has had to resort to loans from foreign commercial banks and issue of local registered stocks to cover earlier short-term advances.

The impact of the current fluctuating commercial interest rates on short-term borrowings will in no way affect the other CARICOM partners as they will Jamaica.

Barbados and Guyana have not had to turn to the banks to the same degree, the former less so than the latter. Trinidad and Tobago, the sole CARICOM oil exporter, has two million dollars foreign reserves and is "riding high" economically, and the other member states have little or no access to such financing.

In the coming year, most will seek additional funds from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to finance their development programmes.

At least four have asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for money--Jamaica, Guyana, Dominica and Grenada. The amounts requested are said to range from US \$700 million by Jamaica to US\$7 million by Grenada.

Quite distinct from short-term commercial borrowings at high interest rates, such as with Jamaica's all the states have long-term debts the repayment of which are an annual drain on their limited resources.

In 1981 some of the oil purchases--from Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and Mexico--will be made under loan concessions, of immediate ease, but bulging the debt position.

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister, Dr Eric Williams, whose initial offer of oil aid to CARICOM runs to more than TT\$200 million over three years, told his Parliament recently that simultaneously with the new oil price pressures, there is reduced access by the Third World to sources of financing.

"The new Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) increases have not only resulted in substantial disequilibrium in international current balances, but have come at a time when many of the private investments banks, which turned out to be an important source of funds in the aftermath of the 1973-1974 situation, have reached their so-called credit limits with regard to lending to the developing nations." [as published]

Overall, for the developing countries, Dr Williams estimated that the average debt service as expressed as a percentage of export earnings has risen from 9.0 per cent in 1974 to 17.5 per cent.

"When these figures are considered against the background of the OPEC current account surplus of approximately US\$118 billion then the magnitude of the recycling or adjustment problem can be fully appreciated.

"The developing countries will certainly continue to need funds if they are to sustain their efforts to transform and diversify their economies.

"They must therefore find alternative sources of financing, hence the growing concern with the role of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund," the Trinidad and Tobago leader, who holds the finance portfolio, commented.

His own Government, apart from the oil concession, maintains an aid programme under which it has loaned CARICOM partners several hundred million dollars, and to which, in the specific areas for which money is available, they will have access in 1981.

The Caribbean countries--all of them, but especially the more developed ones--will have to measure their 1981 changes against the recovery prospects from recession in the western industrialised states.

Projections are that their combined current account deficit of US\$10 billion in 1979 would have worsened in 1980, as has that of the developing world.

Estimates put the end-of-year deficits for industrialised and developing worlds at US\$50 billion and US\$70 billion respectively.

Caribbean economists have pointed to protectionist measures in the first world as economic growth slowed, and are cautioning that such could be intensified should recession in the U.S. and Europe deepen in 1981.

Caribbean markets for sugar, bauxite, bananas, nontraditional exports, and tourism are highly vulnerable to a fall in economic fortunes in the West.

Accurate 1980 figures on flows of trade and tourism are yet to be computed, but in the latter area, if the Barbados experience is an example, recession in North America and Europe has had an adverse impact on tourist arrivals here.

Again, Trinidad and Tobago's petro wealth has been a boon, for its people are travelling more and becoming big spenders, with Barbados one of their favourite destinations.

A senior economist who closely watches the metals market said here today bauxite prices held fairly steadily in 1980 and were expected to continue so at least through the first half of the year.

The two major factors that could soften the bauxite market were felt to be worsening recession, impacting also on the aircraft industry, and the current level of western (especially U.S.) stockpiles, both of bauxite and its finished product aluminum.

Sugar, the oldest major industry in the region and biggest employer of labour, had a horrid year in 1980 and needs to produce substantially more in 1981 if there is not to be further jeopardy to an already nervous market.

Barbados alone of all the English-speaking Caribbean sugar states improved on its 1979 performance--131 742 metric tonnes as against 144 045 metric tonnes,

Jamaica managed only 276 322 metric tonnes, just half of the level production reached in the mid-1960s.

Guyana when year end figures come to hand may well have made less than 308 000 tonnes, which is substantially less than its record of 413 000 metric tonnes.

Trinidad and Tobago made 119 840 metric tonnes in a continuing plunge downwards of sugar production, as well as nonsugar agriculture.

The other CARICOM exporter, St. Kitts-Nevis, a tiny non-independent state, fell below its target by about 13 per cent, with production of about 39 200 metric tonnes.

Trinidad and Tobago has on successive years defaulted on its quota of supply to Britain, under the LOME Trade-Aid-Cooperation Pact through which sugar from the African-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) states has sheltered access to the European Economic Community (EEC).

The current price per ton guaranteed by the EEC approximates £218 and is expected to be negotiated upwards at mid-year.

But even before thoughts turn to a strategy for a renegotiation meeting, producers have to contend with a threatened contraction of the EEC market to well below the 1.3 million tonnes agreed five years ago.

However, sugar specialists in the region feel that available stocks are likely to be sold at a premium on the world market in 1981, hence the feared EEC threat of a cutback may dissipate against the force of supply and demand.

Estimates of the global sugar position show demand outstripping supply by five million tonnes, with a heavy drawdown of stocks, and upward movement in price.

The Barbados Sugar Producers Association reports that for 1980-1981 consumption is expected to be in excess of production, "and depending upon the interplay between production and consumption, a further decline in world stocks is anticipated.

"The effect on price of this continuing decline in stocks will largely depend upon the extent of the deficit, but it does appear that during 1980-1981 adequate supplies for the world market may become difficult to find.

"It is possible therefore that prices may rise to a level which will force consumption downwards and so restore world stocks to a more workable level," the association reasoned in its December REVIEW.

If sugar is indeed moving into a period of bonanza, the Caribbean could capitalize on it only through improved production, a reversal of the present almost regionwide decline.

Higher production and better quality will also determine the 1981 returns from the regions other export crops--bananas in Jamaica and the Windward Islands--coconut, cocoa, coffee.

Much the same applies to Guyana's rice, a huge industry on the republic's Atlantic coast, with markets in the Caribbean and abroad.

The region's push for increased production, greater access to foreign markets, continued pressure for export-import price indexation, softer loans, etc, will be accompanied by a measure of internal austerity.

There are already such indications in Jamaica and Guyana, and Barbados has just moved to dampen spending and hold inflation in check.

Everywhere in the region, 1980 inflation levels have crossed double digits.

The Barbados Central Bank, concerned about the rapid growth of personal incomes, increased spending and the balance of payments position, has made local borrowing more expensive and raised the interest on deposits, to encourage savings.

The measures may vary only slightly as governments seek ways of softening their burdens in a predictably very difficult year ahead.--(CANA)

C80: 3025

AIRLINES AGREE TO FREIGHT BACKLOGGED JAMAICAN GOODS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Jan 81 p 9

[Text]

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Wednesday. (CANA) — Trinidad and Tobago state-owned airline, British West Indian Airways, and Air Jamaica have agreed to cooperate in an effort to airlift \$5 million (US \$2.8 million) in Jamaican goods which should have been exported to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) last year but were stalled due to a lack of air freight facilities.

An official statement in Kingston said that the airlines' decision was reached at a meeting on December 31 chaired by Minister of State, Senator Tony Johnson.

The meeting was called in response to complaints by the Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA) that goods for export were piling up in warehouses since last November because of a suspension of air cargo services to Trinidad and Tobago.

At a request of the minister, it was agreed that the JEA and the Jamaica Manufacturers Association (JMA) would compile an inventory of unshipped exports and the airlines would provide a special service to Trinidad and Tobago within

the next two weeks.

The Jamaican exports to CARICOM were reduced by some \$10 million (US \$5.6 million) during 1980 because of a shortage of air freight services, the JEA said.

Some of the goods were sold on the local market to help buffer the loss to exporters but a sizeable stock valued at some J\$5 million was still in the warehouses awaiting sales, the JEA noted.

BWIA representative, Charmaine Chin-Lov, told the meeting the airline's embargo on the Jamaican freight had been lifted and that a new firm — Caricargo — was to begin operations from Kingston to the rest of the Caribbean on January 28.

Caricargo has a capacity to handle 20 000 pounds of cargo weekly and this could be expanded to 35 000 pounds weekly if the demand arose. (It is a joint venture between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados.)

Senator Johnson requested representatives of Caricargo, Air Jamaica, BWIA, the JEA and the JMA meet this week to discuss the new service in light of the expected increase in Jamaican exports this year.

BRITISH OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON INDEPENDENCE TIMETABLE

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] St John's, Antigua, Saturday (CANA)--The timeframe within which Antigua and Barbuda attain full political independence from Britain is entirely the responsibility of the Antiguan Government, Nicholas Ridley, British Foreign Office Minister, has said.

However, Mr Ridley explained that Premier Vere Bird's Government had two more stages to complete before Britain would move to formally set a date for independence.

Mr Ridley said that the Government "will have to complete some of the details and points still needed to be negotiated," in the proposed Independence Constitution, parts of which have been criticised by the official opposition here, following that the complete constitution must be published.

"After the document is published, and the British Government is satisfied that the document is complete and as far as possible totally agreed upon," the British Government will "seek to enact an Order in Council in the House of Commons" which will give legislative effect to Antigua's independence hopes, he explained.

Mr Ridley said: "The date (for independence) rather depends on the other two stages," but it was hoped that independence would be "some time in the middle of this year."

Premier Bird also said that Antigua and Barbuda will become independent about June and July this year.

Ridley said a second constitutional conference before independence was not necessary.

"It is up to the Government of Antigua if they feel it necessary to have further discussions and further constitutional talks."

But he pointed out that the British Government will "not be directly involved in any further constitutional talks." However, Britain will help "in any way we can."

He said a Government official from Britain had already been assigned to visit Antigua to sort out the financial problems that exist between the Antiguan Government and the Barbuda Local government Council.

Questioned about financial assistance after independence, Ridley said that no final agreement had yet been reached on that point.

But he indicated that aid to Antigua would be of the same magnitude as that offered to other independent Caribbean islands of the same size. (About \$10 million).

CSO: 3025

PAPER CALLS FOR OPPOSITION PLM CONVENTION TO END SCHISM

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 13 Jan 81 p 9

[Text]

ST. JOHNS, Antigua, Monday, (CANAL) — The New Leader newspaper, operated by ex-Premier George Walter, has called on the Opposition Progressive Labour Movement (PLM) to hold a convention and end what it called "the remote control of the party", as internal party wrangling continued.

In a front page article, the New Leader said it is "full time now that the members of the PLM bring an end to the dictatorship in the party and the pushing around of the rank-and-file by a few strait-jacket inexperienced conservative members".

During a 1979 convention, Robert Hall, a 72-year-old white dairy farmer, replaced Walter as leader of the party when Walter was voted out from the position he held since the inception of the PLM in 1967. At the time Walter was under sentence on a criminal charge and the country was approaching general elections. He was subsequently cleared by the

Appeal Court.

The New Leader said that the 1979 convention was "hurriedly called with ulterior motives". It said also that the other convention which was due last year was "quickly postponed so as to deprive the rank-and-file of the party the opportunity of discussing the question of the (Antigua) independence conference".

The paper said that if the party failed to call a convention soon, the district party branches should meet and organise their own convention in order to rescue the PLM from "its present type of dictatorial leadership".

The Antigua Workers' Union (AWU), which was formerly the industrial base for the PLM, has also withdrawn support from the party.

Following a dispute over the selection of delegates for the London constitutional talks, the AWU official informed the PLM that it had withdrawn its support from them and was "neither hand nor leg of the party".

BIRD PREDICTS EVENTFUL YEAR, MAPS PLANS FOR PROGRESS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 Jan 81 p 9

[Text]

ST. JOHN'S, Thursday (CANA) — Antigua's Premier Vere Bird (Sr) has predicted "quite an eventful year for Antigua and Barbuda this 1981.

Mr. Bird said in his New Year message: "1981 is expected to see us attain the goal of freedom — that freedom for which those before us strove, and for which we of today have been struggling and sacrificing."

The Premier said: "The realisation of this dream is at hand." He said that the recent London constitutional conference has resulted in a constitution that will be "a reward for all of us in this new nation of Antigua and Barbuda."

Mr. Bird went on to promise that after the constitution goes to Parliament in Antigua and London, a date for independence will be fixed.

He said: "About the middle of the year, we will see Antigua and Barbuda and Redonda becoming an independent sovereign nation."

"I am glad we have reached a long way towards a better understanding," Mr. Bird declared. "I pray that the new spirit will grow until there is total accord between our peoples."

"We have travelled a long way together. We are at present at our zenith and before us lies the future. What we make of it will depend upon all of us," Mr. Bird said.

Mr. Bird said that "the year gives all indication that it will be very eventful economically."

He said that the economy will be buoyant, looking forward to the re-introduction of the sugar industry and the resumption of refining operations at the West Indies Oil Refinery.

These industries, Mr. Bird said, will not only provide more jobs, but will save the country millions of dollars in foreign currency needed to import these commodities.

Mr. Bird said also that Antiguanians will be provided with "the creative skills" once used to be imported from abroad.

He also promised Antiguanians a viable building programme in the coming year.

Several new schools will be built, he said, the new Parliament building and the new multimillion airport terminal building now under construction at Coolidge Airport will be completed, and renovation to the public utilities headquarters burnt in 1979 — and the old court house which was destroyed by earthquake will also be finished this year.

He said more industries will be brought to the Coolidge Industrial Park, which will "not only banish the unemployment among us, but also provide creative skills for our young people."

Mr. Bird said the economy will "take an upward trend" in 1981, based on performance of oil, agriculture, and tourism.

BRIEFS

SUGAR LOAN--St. Johns, Antigua, Jan 6 (CANA)--The Antigua Government will get an additional loan of half a million dollars (EC-185,000 dollars US) from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to assist with the resuscitation of the sugar factory at Gunthropes. The CDB has already loaned the government 8.1 million dollars (EC-3 million dollars US) of the over 10 million dollars (EC-3.7 million dollars US) which is currently being used to carry out repairs to the sugar factory. The remainder was contributed by the government. Completion of the repairs to the factory is to make way for the resumption of sugar production which was abandoned eight years ago. Antigua usually buys sugar from several Caribbean states, including St. Kitts, Guyana and the Dominican Republic. [Excerpts] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 7 Jan 81 p 2]

CSO: 3025

GOVERNMENT MOVES TO PROMOTE PRIVATE BROADCASTING

PY210001 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 20 Feb 81 p 11

[Text] (NA)--The National Government yesterday opened the way to the privatizing of some of the country's radio and television stations with the issuing of a broadcasting decree by the Presidential Public Information Secretariat.

In the same move, the government issued regulatory legislation for the radio broadcasting Law No. 22,285.

Under the law, licenses will be awarded to private firms for a period of 15 years from the date of regular broadcasting operations. These dates of initiation of private broadcasting activities will be set by the Federal Broadcasting Committee." The law also provides for the establishment of an official broadcasting service (SOR).

The new legislation by no means gives a "free hand" to private licensees. It sets detailed rules for what will and will not be tolerated by the state from private radio and television stations.

The first article of the law contains 16 rules for broadcasting content: programmes must, for instance, present a message of general interest to the viewing public; they must show respect for national and foreign symbols, institutions and historical figures as well as for persons, deeds or ideas which are the object of comment or criticism; they should promote family unity, showing it to be the basic cell of Christian society. The law also stipulates that the Spanish language should be properly employed with respect for its semantic and grammatical rules. Programmes should also be developed which include the interests and meet the needs of youngsters.

Private broadcasters are also warned by the law to refrain from dwelling on topics involving "occult sciences," specifically witchcraft, 'healing,' fortune-telling, astrology, etc.

The law also includes very specific rules on morality particularly as regards sex and violence in programming.

Other specific points of interest in the law include: the principle of "equal time" for opposing political candidates; the banning of advertising which employs increased volume to draw the viewer or listeners' attention; an 8 am to 10 pm ban on shows with strictly adult content; a requirement that 50 percent of each day's broadcast time be filled with local productions, restrictions on information concerning court cases, vice and similarly delicate topics.

CSO: 3020

'HERALD' VIEWS GENERAL WALTERS' VISIT, U.S. EL SALVADOR POLICY

PY250015 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 24 Feb 81 p 10

[Editorial: "Special Envoy"]

[Text] United States foreign policy is so protean that every few months the powers that be in Washington feel obliged to despatch "special envoys" to the main Latin American countries to explain what the latest twists and turns imply. General Vernon A. Walters, who arrived in Buenos Aires late last night on a Latin American tour taking in Brazil, Chile and Mexico as well as this country, is just the latest in a long series and he will surely not be the last. Indeed, this method of supplementing--or, on occasion, bypassing--the usual diplomatic channels has become so well established that a prolonged failure by Washington to send a special envoy would itself be a cause for grave concern in many capitals, leading many governments to wonder what exactly they had done to incur the displeasure of Washington.

The main business of the Reagan government these days is to alert the rest of the world to the Soviet menace. And this, it would seem, is the main purpose of General Walters, with special reference to Soviet activity--directly or via such bridgeheads as Cuba and Nicaragua--in El Salvador. It is strange indeed that Washington should feel the need to warn the Argentine military regime about this particular danger--after all, the need to bar the gates to Marxist menace is one of the main justifications for the regime's continued existence--but this seems to be the case.

U.S. concern with the way things are shaping up in El Salvador is thoroughly understandable. So too is its determination not to see another small Central American country fall into the hands of Marxists. Just what it can do to stop this happening is by no means easy to say, however. The trenchant denunciations of Soviet meddling in El Salvador by members of the U.S. Government may have been fully justified, but they do reduce the number of options open to the United States in this region. It cannot just do something to blunt the Soviet drive there, it must also be seen to be doing something. But it must also consider the great drawbacks of allowing itself to be sucked into a direct involvement in the violent and confusing struggle going on there. It would be of little use to intervene openly in El Salvador--as opposed to intervening surreptitiously, like the Soviet Union--even if the result were to consolidate an anticommunist regime, because the explosion of anti-Americanism

this would detonate would cause the United States to lose more than it would gain. A Salvadorean government propped up by the United States would, moreover, continue to be vulnerable unless the United States obliged it to make far-reaching reforms. The last thing the United States needs is to become associated in the public mind with a brutal and retrograde regime opposed by democrats as well as Marxists, but that is just what it could find itself associated with if events in El Salvador continue their present course.

The United States now seems to be trying to drum up support from Latin American governments for its policies in Central America. Support from the democracies in the region would be well worth having. Unfortunately, some Latin American democracies have no desire at all to be seen making common cause with the United States anywhere, let alone in their own back yard. The dictatorships, for their part, are likely to approve of anything the United States does in Central America to halt the spread of Soviet influence. In the long run, however, their support could become more of a burden than a help by reviving the old idea that the United States is the friend of rightwing dictatorships and the enemy of democracy.

As the Reagan administration is discovering, there are no simple answers to the problems posed by Latin American turmoil, and that while it was easy enough to mock Jimmy Carter's softness, finding a hard substitute that actually works is very difficult indeed.

CSO: 3020

MEASURES URGED TO STOP EMIGRATION FROM BORDER REGIONS

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 23 Jan 81 p 8

[Text] The statistics released by National Census '80 indicate that there is a marked emigration of people from the rural areas of Formosa. According to data gathered in the places indicated and in the capital, these people are seeking better job opportunities in the urban centers of the province, as well as nearby provinces and Buenos Aires.

There is basically one cause for this migration: the agrarian crisis that is growing increasingly severe. It has become so serious that growers' debts are estimated at more than \$30 million. The reasons for this significant decline lie in the major slump of regional economies resulting, as is well known, from the fluctuations of the ever-changing and contradictory economic program pursued by the national government, and more specifically, from the package of measures adopted in the last days of 1978.

We have the wit to realize that the present economic team has had little or no intention of solving the serious problem afflicting these economies. And it does not now have any such intention. These judgments on our part are backed up by the attitudes or statements of those who are running the national economy. So the solutions will be left up to those who will join the Executive Branch in March. However, we believe that in the case of Formosa, as in the other border provinces where a similar slump is taking place, some emergency measures should be taken immediately, at least in the border areas where the tide of migration is increasing daily and must be stemmed forthwith.

There is no longer time to prevent the amount of land planted in cotton in Formosa from being cut to half, or less, that of last year. But we believe there is time for the national government to adopt incentive measures sufficient to encourage growers to prepare for larger plantings next season. And of course, other more personal steps should be taken to curb the exodus that is so damaging to the nation in economic, political and social terms.

8926

CSO: 3010

VOLANDO ISSUES WARNING IF ECONOMIC POLICIES ARE NOT ALTERED

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Jan 81 Sec 3 p 3

[Text] Rosario, Santa Fe--The president of the Argentine Agrarian Federation (FAA), Humberto Volando, stated here that "1980 was the year of protest," and predicted that 1981 will be the year of rebellion if the basic elements of the current economic policy are not changed.

Volando, in statements to journalists, indicated that the protest measures by producers of the Upper Rio Negro Valley and of Neuquen, as well as the Cuyana region, "confirm the warnings made by the FAA when it stated that if the authorities did not provide solutions the social situation would become increasingly tense."

After expressing the organization's solidarity with farmers, he claimed that "their demands are legitimate," and asserted that "before engaging in protests they exhausted all means of local and national dialog, utilizing civilian and military channels as well."

On the other hand, he pointed out that "the vast majority of the population has invested great hopes in the designated president, Roberto Viola." But he stated that "the secrecy that has surrounded him and his advisers does not enable us to predict very much about his future policy."

Volando remarked that the FAA understands that "in order to overcome this crisis, we must have a multiple exchange rate for a reasonable period of time so that the importation of superfluous goods can be avoided, and in other cases such as tourism, the drain of foreign currency can be prevented."

Concerning the fruit growing industry, the leader warned that "support measures are needed most urgently and must come forthwith" in order to prevent the loss of the apple harvest. "For pears, the situation is already irreversible."

With regard to San Juan and Mendoza, he commented that the specific problem of wine prices "has combined with the damage of the Greco case to aggravate the situation. The latter case was grossly mishandled by national authorities, resulting in an untenable economic and financial situation."

8926

CSO: 3010

PAPER COMMENTS ON SIGNIFICANCE OF EGYPTIAN MINISTER'S VISIT

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Jan 81 p 8

[Text] Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali has ended his visit to our country. According to statements made to the press, his mission was to convey to Argentine authorities a message from President Anwar Sadat for the purpose of "establishing a close link between the continents--Latin America and Africa--through a common ocean: the Atlantic." Just as the United States and Canada have achieved a relationship with Western Europe, he said, "it would be propitious to lay the groundwork for understandings between the countries of the Latin American continent and those of Africa, with a view to establishing concrete organizations that would bring to reality what is now just a general idea."

Mr Ghali's remarks indicate that his reference to "that oceanic common denominator" goes beyond mere geography. The diplomat then emphasized this when he said "Egypt is obviously concerned about certain shifts toward the left that have taken place among nonaligned countries--particularly on the part of Cuba, with its armed intervention in African and other nations--which presents a serious danger." Almost without transition, he went on to say, "We openly condemn Cuban intervention in Africa, and therefore we must sensitize public opinion in Africa as well as Latin America in order to put an end to these excesses and interferences." He added, "We must understand that one of the greatest Third World countries is Argentina, and its counterpart in Africa is Egypt. For this reason it is essential that we establish a basic spiritual dialog whose implementation will require discussions, exchanges of ideas and just getting to know each other. To involve America in our problems and vice-versa is one of the clear objectives of this visit: to show that our world is interested in Latin America."

It appears that the Egyptian diplomat (whose visit to Latin America includes Chile, Peru and Mexico as well) has been the bearer of a message that goes much further than good will or simple desires, and obviously exceeds the usual limits of simply signing "scientific and technological cooperation" agreements, as was done in this case. The concrete reference to Cuba's--that is, the Soviet Union's--presence in Africa--and Egypt is an African country--obviates any interpretation other than the very explicit one that Cairo is concerned with "putting an end to all these excesses and interferences."

Mr Ghali's statements in Buenos Aires at a time when Mr Kissinger is claiming the need for a U.S. "military presence" in the Middle East, are events (perhaps parallel) which merit special attention. Buenos Aires cannot remain impassive in the face of a change in the United States' international policy, especially if that policy focuses on a firmer attitude toward Soviet expansionism in the world.

MID LEADERSHIP FACES OPPOSITION FROM REGIONAL HEADS

Buenos Aires ULTIMA CLAVE in Spanish No 511, 20 Jan 81 pp 5-6

[Passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] /This would not be the first--or last--time that the Frondizi-Frigerio team has come under the critical scrutiny of its own followers. As early as the reign of the presidential "adviser"--at times he seemed to be president himself, especially in certain spheres and matters--differences of opinion were already being expressed following the break with the fundamental ideas of the Intransigent Radical faction. That Radical movement served as an inspiration to Frondizism, and was led by Frigerio under a platform that attracted not a few people in a sort of transfer of Marxist-Leninism to "free enterprise" with state protection. At least that is the version put forth by those who were in a position to know and were authorized to say so; and they were heeded by virtue of that position./

From then on, the core group that originally supported Frondizi in accordance with the pact with Juan Peron, was gradually squeezed by an interminable succession of crises. Some of these crises became schisms: Oscar Alende (Intransigent Radical Civic Union [UCRI], later Intransigent Party [PI]), Sylvestre Begnis-Acuna Anzorena (Popular Line). However, if at this point we were to add to the above-mentioned factions the desertions by individuals, the sum total would be a significant political current. But by depriving the original movement of support and political-electoral influence, these desertions have finally destroyed what used to be, as a result of the constituency elections of 1957, practically half of the old Radical Party.

Thus, without losing sight of the context and circumstances outlined above, it can be said that the offensive launched by former Labor Minister Alfredo Allende, former San Isidro Mayor Melchor Posse (also former president of the Buenos Aires Integration and Development Movement [MID]), and Buenos Aires leader Roberto A. Lopardo, is absolutely nothing new in the history of the MID-Frigerist movement. Rather, it is a new approach, encouraged by the alternatives of political change that--despite the theoretical freeze--have affected the majority of the party spectrum.

The problem came to light 3 months ago when Posse decided to resign as president of the MID of the province of Buenos Aires at the culmination of a prolonged confrontation with the national leadership of the group designated by Frondizi-Frigerio.

His resignation did not take place in a vacuum. Almost immediately after stepping down, Posse went to two meetings: one in Junin that was attended by several hundred MID members of the central and western regions, and one in San Isidro 2 weeks later, attended by 800 members of the same organization, leaders of business associations and "all'uso" trade unionists of San Isidro. On that occasion, Posse was received with a demonstration of sympathy and solidarity. San Isidro is his hometown, and is also the seat of the party under which he was mayor.

The statements that were made at the two meetings sounded the alarm among party leaders--the "alternate leadership," as Posse called it on both occasions, trying to emphasize that the true leadership lay in the hands of Frondizi and Frigerio, but that they in turn were managing the team to which they claimed to have delegated responsibility for party leadership--and the leadership prepared to give an immediate response.

Given this state of affairs, some 20 days ago the "leadership" issued a surprising invitation--a strange move at this time of year, with everyone suffering from a sultry January--for a national meeting of the higher echelon leaders from all over the country. There was not a single political topic for consideration at the plenary session, as if the idea were not precisely to engineer a confrontation between Posse, Allende and Lopardo, and Frondizi-Frigerio.

At that time Alfredo Allende was in the United States, while Melchor Posse was suffering from a temporary indisposition. The date was well chosen. Only Lopardo would be able to be present at the national MID summit, so he would be in a minority position in the face of a maneuver by the "adept" leaders against the "rank and file critics." The dissident group decided to be present in the form of some "working papers" addressed exclusively to Arturo Frondizi. The content of those "papers" was itself sufficiently explicit to stir up the same concern that had been aroused by the meetings of Junin and San Isidro, and that is indeed what happened.

Arrows Unleashed

To begin with, strategically rejecting the attempted confrontation with the two MID leaders, Frondizi and Frigerio, the "papers" insisted on maintaining that the latter, and no one else (particularly the "alternate leadership"), were the true chiefs of the MID. Far from constituting a tribute, this recognition was a serious accusation, if looked at carefully. /Thus, certain claims and clarifications were also put forth:

- 1) They called for a "wide-ranging debate among all the executive committees of the MID," in order to put an end to many years of prefabricated meetings called to hear monotonous reports from the Secretary General's Office and the "alternate leadership." This was demanded by the "rank and file" of the party.
- 2) They claimed MID's failure to "disrupt the balance of forces in the country, which favors antidevelopment."
- 3) They accused the party's chiefs of putting into practice a "rigid organizational method."

- 4) They denounced the party's alienation of youth.
- 5) They accused the party of being always "one step behind the military and the Peronists."
- 6) They stressed the "manhandling" and "lack of respect" that characterized the treatment of "political leaders with true representation" by the MID executives, which they strongly protested.
- 7) They made reference to the use of terms such as "antiparty" and "diversionism" --although the "papers" do not say so, these terms have always been heavily used in Moscovite jargon--to stigmatize the appearance of the slightest internal criticism.
- 8) They asserted that they are a "differentiated internal current of the MID" (to the horror of Frigerist Verticalists).
- 9) They accused the MID of having become a "pressure group," forgetting its specific mission as a political party.
- 10) They stressed the need to reincorporate the developmentists who gradually had been alienated from the MID, and claimed the leadership was "pouring the party into a different mold."/

The MID members who met on Saturday 10 January did not pay any attention to these claims, and as those who signed the "papers" predicted, simply stigmatized and condemned them in no uncertain terms, principally by using the print media to disseminate their opinions and points of view.

The MID resolution went even further, calling for a review by "competent authorities" of all that had transpired, that is, the attitude of Allende, Posse and Lopardo, in view of the assertions made in the "papers." In plain language, the decision clearly turned the matter over to the discipline committee, whose sentence is always the same: expulsion.

On Monday 12 January, 48 hours later, Posse and Lopardo sent letters to some 200 MID leaders throughout the country stating more or less the same thing as the "papers" questioned by Frondizi-Frigerio. They asserted that they will not be intimidated by the maneuver by what they called "the auxiliary executive leadership," replacing the "alternate leadership." As far as they are concerned, the debate is still open, they said. In this political fencing match they are careful not to express any personal opposition to Frondizi-Frigerio, a simple tactical expedient whose purpose does not escape the least experienced observer.

The episode reveals that Frondizi, although he tore his hair out trying to show that his political leadership is different from traditional, classic Radicalism, has been unable to prevent the appearance in the MID of the same situations (very familiar to him) that always arose in the old party of Alem and Yrigoyen, often with Frondizi as the principal protagonist. Now it is clear that he as well as Balbin are being challenged, but no one in the internal opposing front is

displeased or disillusioned enough with him to go to the extreme of self-immolation, thereby destroying their own possibility of inheriting the party standard.

The illusion of forming an "internal current" in a party that, as Lopardo failed to acknowledge in his letter to the 200 MID leaders of the country, is run in accordance with "totalitarian" practices, will meet with a harsh response soon enough. The execution squad may delay the elimination of the culprits for a few weeks or months. But Allende, Posse and Lopardo (as well as their followers: Lerner and the Gussoni brothers, among many others) can be certain of one thing--they know the score, and have often used it for their own ends to eliminate dissidents in the past--they will be inexorably expelled and "historically" condemned, in keeping with the best Stalinist traditions, simply because they dissented and tried to be individuals, to think for themselves.

Finally, we must reflect on a thought that came up in the last paragraph. Can the current offenders possibly think that what is happening to them is a temporary phenomenon, something that has only existed in recent months? Or will they doubt that what is happening to them now is nothing but the repetition of identical situations that occurred in 1958, 1963, 1971 and 1975, when other dissidents who preceded them expressed their revulsion at certain practices of the Frondizi-Frigerio team? Is the situation so desperate now that fewer and fewer people are willing to stay?

8926

CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

TREASURY DEFICIT FIGURES--(NA)--The nation's general treasury deficit definitely rose to more than 7.8 billion pesos during 1980, with a real value increase of 73 percent over 1979, and the lowest genuine financing level since 1976, announced the treasury superintendency yesterday. The deficit, which rose 1.34 billion pesos in December alone, 110 percent over the previous December, is largely being financed by paper money, the announcement flatly stated. [Text] [PY222139 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 21 Feb 80 p 9 PY]

CSO: 3020

PINDLING DISCUSSES MAJOR 1980 EVENTS AT THREE CAYS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

INCIDENTS occurring at three cays highlighted 1980. Prime Minister Lynden Pindling said over the radio programme "Mary's Notebook" last night.

He named Cay Santa Domingo, Cay Lobos and Pipe Cay - but refrained from mentioning Norman's Cay, which in Parliament was described as a staging ground for one of the biggest drug operations in this part of the world - as names which had gained international prominence during the year.

Also, although he called Pipe Cay by name, Mr Pindling made no reference to the disappearance of an American couple while cruising the area, the discovery of a body on the yacht's dinghy and the conflicting police reports as to whether in fact they had seen a body.

"Those three cays all reached international attention in 1980 and highlighted particular problems that the Bahamas faces. And these problems will continue in 1981 and hopefully we will be better able to address these problems in 1981," Mr Pindling said.

Speaking about the sinking of the HMBS Flamingo by Cuban Mig fighters at Cay Santa Domingo last May 10, Mr Pindling described the Bahamas' relations with Cuba as "normal."

"It is possible for something like that to happen again if it is a pure accident. Accidents could always happen," he warned.

"It was a new experience for us and, in the beginning, it did not look like an accident. It looked like a calculated design because of the way in which it happened, the return of the Cubans to the scene and the way they appeared."

The 50-year-old Prime Minister said it now appears that there were some "internal problems" in Cuba and there was not "as complete control over the flight sorties as they might have liked."

Mr Pindling said the Bahamas had not formed a defence treaty with another country for several reasons.

"It's not possible to have protection against a surprise attack or accident," he said.

"There is one important factor I think every Bahamian ought to ask himself. That is this: Why should an American soldier put his life on the line for a Bahamian? So a Bahamian should ask himself the question: ought he not be prepared to put his own life on the line for his Bahamas rather than sit down on his fanny and wait for somebody else's son to come to put his life on the line for him."

Further, Mr Pindling argued, "America or any other country is not going to be prepared to make arrangements with the Bahamas or any other country for that matter unless it is in America's interest."

Switching to the Cay Lobos topic - where more than 100 Haitians were evacuated by force after more than two months on the desolate cay - he intimated that Rev Jean-Juste, an activist Haitian priest in Florida, was to blame.

He said Rev Gerard Jean-Juste aggravated the situation by telling the Haitians not to board the boat which was to take them to Haiti.

He said newsmen also contributed to the incident because they "seemed to offer them encouragement that if they stayed somehow they would have been able to get to the US."

"Our men made three unsuccessful attempts to persuade the people to leave. On three occasions they were driven off by stones, conch shells and sticks and other

improvised weapons.

"If nothing of that sort had happened, why would they have had to call back to Nassau and ask for re-inforcements?"

Mr Pindling said that the people who suffered most were the stranded Haitians.

And he added: "Anyone who thought they would be admitted to the United States would have been a fool. Anybody who thought the United Nations Refugee Commission could do anything about it was living in a fools paradise."

He saw no immediate solution to the Haitian problem. Under an agreement with the Haitian Government, the Bahamas can repatriate 400 Haitians a month.

Asked about the impending deadline for illegal immigrants on January 18, the Prime Minister said:

"I wouldn't like for us to think of a round-up," he said.

"We've got to remember that we're dealing with people, not cattle."

QUARTERLY REVIEW NOTES DROP IN EXTERNAL ASSETS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Jan 81 p 2

[Text]

THE BAHAMAS Central Bank's external assets, at \$103.6 million in July, declined moderately and ended the third quarter at \$102.5 million.

"For the first nine months of the year, the accretion in reserves amounted to \$29.2 million as against \$30.1 million for the corresponding period of last year," the bank said in its September, 1980, quarterly review.

The review said commercial banks' net foreign asset position decreased \$6.3 million for the quarter. Banks made \$8.9 million net in sales of foreign currency to their customers.

The Central Bank was a net provider of foreign exchange to the system during the quarter and commercial banks purchased net foreign currency in the amount of \$11.1 million from the bank, reflecting the usual high seasonal demand for foreign exchange.

Savings and fixed Bahamian dollar deposits of the other local financial institutions continued to grow in the third quarter, but the rate of increase in the quarter under review was nearly more than twice that noticed in the preceding two quarters.

The series on the other local financial institutions' deposits have been revised, the review said.

Because of a recent reclassification of some of these institutions' deposits, the data reported for other local financial institutions' mortgage

loans for the third quarter increased to \$94.2 million representing a rise of \$4 million.

Hire-purchase loans showed a minimal increase. Other local loans and advances were up by \$1.1 million to a level of \$9.1 million.

During the third quarter of 1980, an overall balance of payments surplus of \$1.3 million, as measured by the increase in the official international reserves, was achieved.

This compares with a deficit of \$5.3 million a year ago.

"With the tourist season drawing to a close, estimated receipts under travel at \$139.4 million were substantially lower than the \$184.6 million recorded for the second quarter and the \$175.9 million for the first quarter of 1980, but were higher than the \$129.1 million shown for the third quarter of 1979," the bank reported.

The bank also said expenditure by Bahamians abroad was estimated at \$20.2 million, up by \$1.6 million from the comparable period of 1979.

The current account was in surplus by \$20.6 million compared with a surplus of \$15.9 million during the third quarter of 1979.

Oil imported for local consumption during the quarter increased by \$26.1 million to \$70.1 million, of which \$30 million was for domestic consumption and the remaining \$40.1 million was

for the bunkering of foreign ships and aircrafts.

The cost of motor gasoline per barrel for the third quarter increased by \$10.59 over the third quarter of 1979 to \$24.18. The price of gas oil per barrel was also up by \$10.50 to \$41.67.

Foreign bunkers at \$34.80 per barrel represented an increase of \$19.33 over the corresponding period of 1979, while kerosene prices declined by \$18.58 to \$16.39 per barrel.

Net payments under non-oil trade were up by \$7.5 million over the third quarter of 1979. Imports increased by \$17.4 million to \$106.9 million while exports moved up by \$9.9 million to \$53 million.

Net factor payments for the third quarter was \$9.6 million, down from the \$15.6 million recorded during the same period in 1979. This decline was primarily due to an increase in net inflows by banks and trusts of \$12.8 million.

Net outflows on behalf of other companies and the Government of \$22 million and \$0.4 million respectively, were slightly higher than that recorded in the third quarter of 1979.

Offshore companies inflows for the review period totalled \$24.3 million, up by \$7.8 million over the respective period of 1979.

The net inflow on capital account for the third quarter was \$18.7 million as compared with \$8.7 million for the same

companies by non-Bahamians.

Public corporations made net loan repayments of \$0.2 million. The Government's loans repayments for the quarter under review totalled \$2.3 million.

Authorized dealers accounted for inflows of \$6.3 million during the quarter by increasing their net foreign liabilities. The other financial institutions decreased their net foreign liabilities during the period, which led to an outflow of \$3.2 million.

period last year, the bank said.

Inflows from loans were \$16.4 million, while repayments amounted to \$12.6 million. New inflows of \$10.4 million on account of property purchases represented in the main additional investments by "non-residents" in properties previously acquired.

Other investments accounted for a net inflow of \$7 million compared with \$1.4 million for the third quarter of 1979, reflecting mainly the purchase of shares in Bahamian

FAMILIES OF CUBAN MIG VICTIMS NOT YET INDEMNIFIED

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Jan 81 pp 1, 4

[Excerpts] The parents of four Defence Force seamen, who were killed during an attack on their boat by Cuban MIG fighters last May, have still not received compensation for the loss of their sons.

Under an agreement between the Bahamas and Cuban Governments, each family was to receive \$100,000 payment from the Republic of Cuba.

In addition, the Bahamas Government was to be awarded \$5 million in compensation for the sinking of the 103-foot HMBS Flamingo.

External Affairs Minister Paul Adderley announced December 12 that the Bahamas Government had been paid the equivalent in pounds sterling of US \$5.4 million that day. But there has been no communication since then.

At an FNDM meeting Tuesday night, party chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield said he understood the Cubans had paid some of the money, "but they didn't pay all."

Today, two parents--one of whom asked not to be named--confirmed they have not received their \$100,000. And they said they have not been advised when they will be paid.

Meanwhile, it is understood that the insurance group with which Flamingo was insured is waiting for Government to formally advise it on the terms of the agreement with the Cuban government.

The Government has claimed on its insurance, but it is understood negotiations are at a standstill and will be until a formal statement is made.

CSO: 3025

RULING BLP LEADER ASKS MEMBERS TO WORK FOR WIN AT POLLS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Chairman of the Barbados Labour Party Mr Vic Johnson yesterday appealed to party members and supporters to work towards a stirring election victory, not only for the BLP but also for the people who loved freedom and prosperity.

In his last address as Chairman of the BLP before the forthcoming general elections, scheduled for later this year, Mr Johnson said: "Today my friends, I assure you that the future is now and the future is bright.

"I remind all Barbadians of our common heritage, the tested steel of our people and their disciplined will. Let us meet again in the winner's circle."

He was addressing the 42nd annual general convention of the BLP which opened at Marine House yesterday. It continues next Sunday.

Mr Johnson said that the four and a half year reign of his Government had been "testing years such as no Government before has had to endure."

He commended Prime Minister Mr Tom Adams, noting that it was to his credit that "this ship of state sails on in murky tossing seas with hardly a ripple of its sails."

According to Mr Johnson, Barbados "has now gained the admiration of the world."

He noted that in 1976 when his Government took over, Barbadians were searching for the fulfillment of a promise of a better life for all.

"They turned their eyes of hope on us. They looked expectantly to the future. Today the past is prologue. That future to which they looked is now.

In outlining the progress of his party over the four and a half years, Mr Johnson spoke of the already promised increase in pension for senior citizens.

He noted that the aged had no future to wait for and whatever the country owed them should be paid to them while they were still living.

He praised his Government for understanding the needs of the aged.

Mr Johnson was also high in his praise of the National Health Scheme which he described as a life-saving gift to the Barbadian people, "sealed stamped and delivered by Labour."

In respect of housing, the party Chairman noted that his Government's programme reflects not so much the nuances of architecture but the elegant simplicity of functions above form.

"All Barbadians as a right must have access to adequate shelter that assures dignity as it shelters," he said.

Mr Johnson described his Government's achievements during their term of office as "dazzling" but warned party supporters against gloating over their successes.

"We must pay heed to the warning given to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6:12 "then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage," he said.

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BARBADIANS URGED TO IGNORE LEFTIST POLITICAL ALLIANCE

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Jan 81 p 4

[Article by Henry Christopher: "Campaigning Gathering Momentum"]

[Text]

LAST weekend's disclosure that Barbados is to get a new leftist "Political alliance" was yet another signal that campaigning for the forthcoming General Election is gathering momentum.

According to Press reports the impending political alliance would be seeking to "provide better conditions for Barbadians" and it was seeking to contest all 27 seats in the enlarged House of Assembly.

In the forefront of the move to put together the alliance, is Barbados' most persistent would be leftist politician, Robert ("Bobby") Clarke.

Mr Clarke has been the spokesman and leader of the so-called People's Progressive Movement (PPM) now reported to be defunct but which for most of its existence had existed only on paper.

The public's reminder of the existence of the PPM would come with the occasional public relations reaction to some situation that concerned the leftist cause. As usual, the reaction was as predictable as any statement emanating from the communist centres of Moscow and Havana.

For most Barbadians the PPM has been an object of total rejection, although it cannot be recalled that it has ever had the chance to do this at the polls.

Mr Clarke had kept his paper party away from elections and it had gradually drifted into obscurity.

The PPM had come back to public notice following the successful coup in Grenada,

through its linkage with Mr Clarke, the so-called "political adviser" to the illegal government of Maurice Bishop.

Ever since then, Mr Clarke has been busily championing the cause of the Bishop Government, most recently in its abusive campaign against Barbados' constitutionally elected Prime Minister, Mr. Tom Adams, because the Barbados leader had publicly reminded the Bishop regime of its pledge to hold early general elections to legitimise its position.

Barbadians who are basically ingrained political constitutionalists, had generally rallied behind Prime Minister Adams, except predictable positions taken by Mr Clarke and other leftist groupings and surprising and disappointingly, the opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) led off by Dr. Richie Haynes.

In the light of Barbados' traditional rejection of communist politics, it must be wondered why any such group of people, seriously intent on entering the political system here, would set about to establish a political alliance and contest General Elections.

Furthermore, of all the Caribbean territories, Barbados is perhaps the least in need of a leftist political movement, bearing in mind its level of development, its relatively more equitable distribution of the country's wealth, its abundance of social services provided out of the public purse and its long record of political

stability, social tranquility and steady economic growth.

In addition, the Caribbean has been witnessing a number of its countries consistently spurning so-called leftist parties in Antigua, Dominica, St. Vincent and most recently Jamaica with the ousting of Michael Manley.

Why then would a leftist political alliance be formed?

Barbadians have been fortunate to have been given early warning of the plans to set up such an alliance. This will permit them ample time to make up their minds to dish out an outright rejection to any communist organisation participating in the imminent General Elections.

Having made up their minds early, Barbadians would therefore not have to risk being confused or concerned by anything said by the leftist alliance during the campaign. Barbadians will have to make it clear from early that they have no intention of giving consideration to any leftist political alliance that will obviously destroy the social, economic and political benefits that they have been blessed to enjoy.

There is no reason why Barbadians should not once again establish that they are only interested in choosing either of the two major parties, the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP) and the opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) should this attitude be maintained, a humiliating defeat for any political alliances would be expected, although it is hard to believe why those said to

be involved in trying to bring about the alliance, should expect otherwise. That is unless they do not consider General Elections politically sacred and are intent on merely going through the motions with them.

Can Barbadians expect that with an alliance of a leftist nature their country will be the target of increased interest, activity and pressure from Moscow via its Caribbean communist satellite, Cuba and most recently Grenada?

Would the emergence of any leftist alliance pose special problems for the DLP in its attempt to formulate an alternative programme to that offered by the governing BLP? The BLP because of its long record of achievements, can be expected to maintain the programme through which it has gained such success and would therefore have no need to drastically alter its policies.

On the other hand for some time now, it had been said in political circles that in order to try to make some impact in the future, those with leftist leanings in the DLP were determined to see the party offer the Barbadian public a stark choice between the accepted policies of the BLP and the leftist inclined of the DLP. Would any political alliance of the left therefore tend to steal the DLP's thunder?

Barbadians will recall that the last occasion on which they were offered a political alliance in the form of the People's Political Alliance (PPA) they virtually ignored its eight candidates in the 1976 General Elections.

That PPA which had basically emerged out of the fledgling People's Democratic Movement (PDM) never really made any impact. One of the reasons for its failure was the refusal of some of the leading figures in the PDM to give up their positions at the University of the West Indies and elsewhere to contest seats in the House of Assembly.

Another factor in the failure of the PPA was its lack of dynamic and attractive platform speakers. When the PPA was being formed, some attempts were made to include leader of the minor, but highly vocal People's Pressure Movement (PPM) Mr. Eric Sealy. But these attempts collapsed because of the reluctance of PPA personnel to have Mr. Sealy as a leader, given his past and other issues.

Now it will be left to be seen whether Mr. Sealy who attended last weekend's talks, would be prepared to accept a role less than that of leader in the proposed alliance, or whether the alliance would be willing to utilise the dynamic speaking skills of Mr. Sealy as Leader and ignore the other factors surrounding him.

Perhaps it is that those said to be involved in forming the alliance are being infected with election fever. On the other hand it could be part of larger programme of communist expansion into Barbados. Heavens forbid.

Whatever the rationale, I have no doubt that Barbadians will continue to exercise their characteristic good judgment and treat any leftist alliance with the disdain it deserves. I look forward to that message being made clear.

ADAMS: INTEGRITY WILL NOT BE SACRIFICED FOR INVESTMENT

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 7 Jan 81 p 2

[Text] Barbados needs foreign investment, but will not sacrifice its integrity and authority to get it, Prime Minister Mr Tom Adams has said.

The social consequences of making such a sacrifice were potentially "calamitous," Mr Adams warned.

The Prime Minister and Finance Minister on Monday night addressed officials from the tourism sector as he officially opened an 82-room extension to the posh, Marriott-owned "Sam Lord's Castle."

His remarks seemed related to an issue in which a development company accused the Government of withdrawing permission to build a US\$3.5 million hotel complex on the west coast after site-preparation work had started.

Referring to an apparent spin-off from the ensuing dispute, Mr Adams said some "parties" might have become "anxious" and "sensitive" about the roles of the non-Barbadian investor in the tourism industry here.

Foreign investors had "a healthy role" to play in tourism development here, Mr Adams stated. But he added: "...Property development, no matter how major in terms of increased employment opportunities and other economic benefits, must be undertaken in strict compliance with the laws of Barbados.

"...In view of the potential calamitous social consequences for Barbados, this country can ill afford to even seem to appear to be sacrificing its integrity and authority at the altar of foreign investment."

Prime Minister Adams said that all Barbados demanded was that continued respect be shown for the law.

"Once this is forthcoming, along with compliance with other regulations, standards and the policy objectives of the Government towards development in Barbados, foreign investors have nothing to fear as regard their future acceptability and role in the growth, expansion and development of tourism," he added.

Last month, the Barbados Government rejected claims made by the St James Development Company, and charged that the firm had started site preparation before obtaining permission for building a hotel. The dispute between the two came amidst a campaign by conservationists, "The Window to the Sea Group," calling on the Government to keep open the beach front area on which the hotel was to have gone up.--(CANA)

CANADIAN LOAN WILL AID WATER SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 13 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The Canadian Government is again assisting Barbados with the provision of a loan for its water development programme.

The third loan agreement totalling CAN\$6.5 million was signed here yesterday by Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr Mark MacGuigan and Barbados' Prime Minister, Mr Tom Adams.

As a result of the loan, improvements to Barbadian household water systems are expected to go up to over 90 per cent.

In describing areas in which the loan is to be used, Mr Adams pointed out that the plan was not merely to bring water to the premises of Barbadian homes but to have every home equipped with adequate supplies by 1985.

The Prime Minister referred to Barbados as one of the countries in the world with the highest percentage of water installed in homes.

Mr Adams also expressed his satisfaction after the signing of the loan with the quality of mains and other supplies with which Canada had provided Barbados under the other two agreements.

The Canadian loan funds, at three per cent for 30 years and seven years grace, will cover the cost of Canadian pipe, fittings mechanical and electrical equipment, water tanks, related supplies and shipping.

The previous loans were for CAN\$2.5 million in 1970 and CAN\$3.1 million in 1975. The work included the laying of 162 miles of various sizes of water mains, the construction of seven reservoirs, seven pumping stations, improvements in communications and general water management.

With the present agreement Barbados itself will contribute some Bds\$6.1 million for design, engineering, construction, management, labour and other costs in the five-year phase of the water development programme.

One of the major works to be undertaken is the construction of a 4.5 million litres capacity reservoir at Boscobelle, St Peter. It will be linked to the already existing Alleyndale system.

The reservoirs at Bowmanston St. George, and Shop Hill, St. Thomas, are also to be linked together. More mains are to be laid on the west coast to deal with the intensive housing development in south St. James. Also to be purchased with the new loan will be new machinery, vehicles and distribution equipment.

Local staff will be employed through the Waterworks Department to man all components of the project.

A Government release noted that the Government's Development Plan for the period 1979-83 has recognised the restriction which can be imposed on development through lack of adequate water supplies. It said that the existing production, storage and distribution facilities have been rendered inadequate by increased demand as a result of rapid housing expansion.

The release also stated that Government has embarked on a programme of development for plantation tenancies.

The current Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) project brings Canada's contribution to the three phases to CAN\$12.1 million over a 10-year period.

Also among the main benefits of the project will be: the reduced incidence of waterborne diseases; improved health conditions in rural districts; expansion of the industrial and tourist sectors in areas not already serviced with adequate supplies of water and increased vegetable crops through irrigation.

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PHONE WORKERS STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF DISMISSED COLLEAGUE

BWU Decision

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpt] Unionized employees of the Barbados Telephone Company are now on strike.

The more than 500 workers went on strike from midnight last night in support of their colleague Mr David Giles who was dismissed on December 11. Mr Giles was President of the Union's division at the Company.

General Secretary of the Barbados Workers Union, Mr Frank Walcott, said yesterday that the decision was taken after thorough discussion between the committee of management of the Telephone Company union division and the Executive Council of the union.

He told a Press conference yesterday: "We will fight until the end and the workers will prevail. They have prevailed in Poland and they can prevail anywhere. We will not concede in this matter to anyone."

Mr Giles was dismissed from the Telephone Company after he failed to meet a company deadline for an apology to management. The apology was requested after he posted what the company termed "a scurrilous attack on management" on a notice board at Company headquarters.

The company has also accused Mr Giles of being absent from a work station on November 28, 1980 without permission, having an extended lunch hour on November 28 without permission, and failing to attend a meeting called by the Chief Engineer at the company on November 28.

Employers' Statement

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] "The Barbados Employers' Confederation strongly deplores the action taken by the Barbados Workers' Union over the David Giles issue.

"Such action is not in consonance with sound industrial relations practice, nor is it consistent with the usually responsible behaviour that the Barbados Workers' Union normally exhibits.

"The BEC is unyielding in its resolve to support the Barbados Telephone Company and urges the company not to give in to pressure of any kind to change its position.

"The facts are all well known--having been set out in detail in advertisements by the company in the newspapers--and need not be repeated here.

"What must be repeated is that Mr Giles' actions gave the company no alternative but to dismiss him. The BEC does not believe that there is any argument to dispute the justness of the company's action nor has it seen or heard any such argument.

"It is therefore amazed at the official position of the BWU. It understands of course the BWU's attitude since Mr Giles was president of the Barbados Telephone Company's Division of the BWU and is currently a member of the Executive Council of the BWU.

"But it feels that one holding such high office should exhibit a corresponding maturity of approach to his work and in his behaviour. It feels further that the greater the responsibility should be.

"It feels too that the BWU instead of condoning the inexcusable actions of one of its important members, should be the first to condemn or at least disassociate itself from such actions.

"The BEC is aware that strike action at the Barbados Telephone Company will seriously affect the economic and social life of Barbados, for the telephone is a vital instrument in all phases of the life of this country. Consequently the BEC:

"(1) appeals to the BWU to let good sense prevail and cease and desist from supporting the insupportable, and defending the indefensible.

"(2) repeats its call upon Government to introduce Essential Services legislation thereby preventing serious dislocation in vital areas such as the telephone service.

"(3) asks the public and telephone subscribers to be patient and understanding in this trying time.

"(4) appeals to the Police to ensure that the law regarding picketing is adhered to.

"Finally the BEC wishes to state that just as workers have rights so too have the employers. This is a point which has been overlooked throughout this issue at hand.

"Just as workers' organisations will seek to vindicate the cause of workers, so too will employers' organisations seek to vindicate the cause of employers."

Union Accusation

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 10 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpt] The Barbados Workers' Union has termed a call by the Barbados Employers' Confederation for legislation on essential services as "part of the oppressive and repressive tactics" resorted to by employers to stifle the just demands of workers.

"The union must state that it is unalterably opposed to any such draconian measures and will use all the means at its disposal to fight any attempt in this direction," the BWU said in a release yesterday.

It added: "Employers in Barbados must disabuse their minds of any idea that they can do as they please to workers and when the same workers fight back, they then turn to the Government for assistance.

"A worker's right to keep a job and earn a living for himself and his family must be a fundamental tenet in any society. This is what the Barbados Workers' Union stands for."

Wire Cutting

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 12 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The Barbados Employers' Confederation (BEC) said yesterday it was shocked at the report of slashing of wires connected to the telecommunications system at British Airways, Speedbird House, Bridgetown.

And Executive Director, Mr Collis Blackman, said the BEC was also concerned that this single act of vandalism may have some connection with the current industrial action at the Barbados Telephone Company.

In a Press release, the BEC called upon the BWU "as the responsible organisation it claims to be" to publicly deplore "this wanton act."

The release added:

"The BEC further wishes to point out that there is always the danger of such senseless acts being committed when irresponsible persons are influenced by fiery and emotionally charged speeches and statements by people who should know better."

"Finally, the BEC hopes that there is no further escalation of malicious damage, nor any further acts of violence of any kind during this period."

Blockade Threat

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 13 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpts] As workers at the Barbados Telephone Company continue their strike action to back dismissed colleague, Mr David Giles, the Barbados Workers' Union has issued a threat to "block Bridgetown" if Giles is not reinstated.

Mr Frank Walcott, BWU General Secretary, warned that the Union was going to teach the company a lesson, when he addressed a public meeting in the Fairchild Street Market Square last Sunday night.

"Not only a lesson, but a rough lesson," he told the mammoth crowd.

Mr Walcott also said that the company had to give striking workers "every cent of the \$25 000," it said workers were losing every day as a result of the strike.

"The time must come in this country when workers must learn where their power resides," Mr Walcott said.

"If they do not take Giles back we block up town. Defence Force or no Defence Force," the BWU General Secretary said.

The BWU has regional backing in its action and it is expected that this support will extend to international circles.

Mr Burns Bonadie, CCL Secretary General, also addressed the meeting, and said that the peace and tranquility which existed in Barbados was as a result of the strength of the BWU.

"The CCL supports the BWU 100 per cent...the support is going to be solid," Mr Bonadie said.

He said the struggle was for every Barbadian, and charged that the advertisements being put out by the Telephone Company showed that the company was behaving as a little child."

was president of the company's Union division, voted to keep individuals at the company together so that they could maximise what they could get out of the negotiations for the same people the company had working now. [as published]

Call for Manager's Dismissal

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 15 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The Barbados Workers' Union has called on Government to remove the managing director of the Barbados Telephone Company, Mr Don Hill, from his post.

This was disclosed yesterday by Mr Leroy Trotman, deputy general secretary of the BWU, as he addressed the striking workers at Windsor Lodge.

Mr Trotman said that it was in the best interest of Barbadians to have Mr Hill sent back home.

It was reported yesterday that Mr Hill had threatened to resign if David Giles was reinstated in his job.

But Mr Hill has flatly denied this. He declared: "I have not made any such statement."

Elaborating on the union's call to Government, Mr Trotman said that Government had lots of interest in the company, and therefore it was Government's right to ensure that Barbadians were not made to suffer unjustly.

He said that David Giles had been very dissatisfied with misleading Press statements issued by the management of the company, and that he was being victimised for letting the other workers know what was going on.

Mr Giles' dismissal hinges on his refusal to apologise for certain remarks he made about the management of the company, and the taking of a longer than usual lunch break.

Mr Trotman told the workers that the company was trying to use "divide and rule tactics" among the workers, but the union was prepared to fight such a move. He then challenged the company to release the names of the striking workers who reportedly wanted to return to work, adding that the picket lines were getting thicker every day.

Mr Trotman said that the Telephone Company was trying to give the public the wrong impression of the situation, because more people were joining the cause of the workers.

Meanwhile the Executive Council of the BTC met last night to decide on a plan of action for next Monday. It is expected that they will decide to bring the commercial life of the island to a near halt by calling out all union members to march in support of the Telephone workers.

Labour Minister Don Blackman has met with both sides in the dispute in an effort to reach a settlement, but nothing has really materialised. Mr Hill reportedly said that he is prepared to accept suggestions from Mr Blackman as long as they do not have to do with the reinstatement of Giles.

The strike is now in its seventh day and the union has said that it will fight until Giles has been reinstated. Most of the striking workers are quite vocal in their claim that they will not return to work until their colleague and union division leader has been reinstated. They want no compromise, they said.

PPM Support

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 15 Jan 81 p 2

[Text] The People's Progressive Movement in solidarity with the workers of the Barbados Telephone Company totally support the legality of the strike action.

A release from the PPM said yesterday:

"The Barbados Telephone Company must be taught a lesson so that other repressive and neo-colonialist companies in Barbados will understand the full power and force of the workers.

"We call upon the workers of Barbados to stand firmly behind the telephone workers in the moment of change," the release said.

Call for Demonstration

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] As more than 30 000 members of the Barbados Workers Union (BWU) prepare to take to the streets on Monday in a demonstration of solidarity with striking Telephone Company workers, the BWU has dismissed any suggestion that at this stage there was room for compromise.

Some 500 unionised workers at the company have been on strike for the past nine days to back demands for the reinstatement of colleague, Mr David Giles.

Giles, who was president of the company's Union Division, was dismissed early last month after the company laid a number of charges against him including failing to meet the deadline for an apology to management for posting an "attack" on management on the company's notice board.

"The Union made its position clear from the beginning that it could not accept the dismissal of Mr Giles because the agreement between the Union and the company is fundamental," BWU Secretary, General, Mr Frank Walcott, said at his weekly Press conference yesterday.

He said it was not a procedural clause that the Union was using as an escape; it was fundamental to the industrial relations agreement between the BWU and the Barbados Telephone company.

Mr Walcott said the Union could not accept a position in which amateurs were asking it to ignore what was fundamental to the existence of relations between itself and companies and to regard this as some technicality.

Mr Walcott recalled that the BWU has faced dismissals before. He mentioned those of Mr D. R. Holder nearly 40 years ago and Mr McDonald Brachwaite, nearly 30 years ago, both from the Foundries.

"The dismissals were responsible for the Union in its present form. The difference is that the Union in 1981 is stronger to fight these issues and regard industrial democracy as more fundamental to the Union's cause than in 1942," Mr Walcott said.

He also rejected what he termed "nonsense" from a columnist in another section of the Press about Communism and the General Secretary being pushed.

"The Communists accuse the Union of one thing and the right wing of another. From 1941, the Union has been called Communist and other names from time to time.

"We do not consider namecalling as an answer to issues and what has been stated on this score is simple side tracking. To suggest that the General Secretary is a person to be pushed is another statement unrelated to reality," the BWU General Secretary said.

He felt that at another stage the General Secretary would be accused of being a dictator.

"The Union is not interested in these convenient statements. The agreement is clear and evident for any one to see and only a feeble-minded person could use that as a means of escaping what is a fact," Mr Walcott said.

"The Union cannot understand how at this stage, it can be accused of technicalities when it comes to a dismissal but no employer is going to accept a strike by workers that they regard as unauthorised as a normal part of any agreement.

"We do not know on what basis we can accept a dismissal from any employer as normal when it is contrary to what is enshrined in the agreement."

"To suggest that the Union is afraid to deal with basic causes of dismissal is silly because we have stated before that the dismissal clause is in the agreement, so it would be pointless asking the Union not to abide by what it already has in the terms of the agreement."

Mr Walcott reiterated that the letters sent to Mr Giles were specific and stated in specific terms what were the issues.

He said the issues were not dismissal and Mr Giles had not done anything following the receipt of the letters but the company failed to abide with the request that was made by the BWU for a meeting.

NUPW Release

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) has requested its members, particularly in the areas where both the NUPW and the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) have members, to support their striking colleagues at the Telephone Company.

This means that thousands of public workers might be joining in Monday's Solidarity March, called by the BWU to back its call for the reinstatement of David Giles at the company. Giles was dismissed early last month.

The NUPW, in a release yesterday, said the Telephone Company made a serious mistake and continued to do so, in failing to recognise and differentiate between Mr Giles, the union official, and Mr Giles, the employee.

"This is an attack on the very foundation of trade unionism which the movement must resist," the NUPW said.

The NUPW pointed out that as soon as the union contacted the employer on the issue, the deadline in any event, no longer applied and it should not have issued the employee with a dismissal letter.

"The NUPW has decided not to comment at this stage on the Barbados Employers' Confederation's call for the enactment of essential services legislation except to point out to the public and certain areas of the Press, that any employer has the right to lock out his workers. Furthermore, 284 employers, members of the BEC, are supporting the company against one worker and his union."

The NUPW said that in all progressive democratic countries the freedom to strike was considered a fundamental freedom alongside the freedom to organise, to assemble peacefully, and to express one's opinion. It added that the employers had these freedoms as well and we must all protect these zealously.

"Having analysed the issue based upon the information placed before the public, the NUPW formally supports the stand of the BWU. We will, therefore, assist the workers' cause to the extent of whatever support is necessary," the release said.

WIGUT Support

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The West Indies Group of University Teachers has sympathised with the cause of the Barbados Workers' Union in their present dispute with the Barbados Telephone Company.

A release from the organisation said that its Executive Committee met yesterday and strongly "supported the right to work."

The Group said it was supporting the cause, especially as there was apparently no real discussion between the parties to the dispute, preliminary to the dismissal decision of David Giles taken by the Telephone Company's management.

Government Appeal

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] For the first time since workers at the Telephone Company have been on strike, the Government of Barbados has issued an official statement on the dispute between the company and the Barbados Workers' Union.

Government has called on the two parties to return to the conference table and seek to arrive at a solution consonant with the dignity of the worker as well as industrial discipline.

A Government Information Service release on the matter stated yesterday:

"The Government of Barbados views with great concern the current dispute between the Barbados Workers' Union and the management of the Barbados Telephone Company."

"Good industrial relations and a balanced approach to trade disputes have always been a mark of the social stability of Barbados. The Government therefore regrets the fact that the two parties and the Barbados Employers Confederation, which is advising the Barbados Telephone Company, have been unable to settle a procedure for determining their differences without industrial action."

"The Government, through the Ministry of Labour, has met all the parties and has discussed with them what it considers to be the best procedural practises in dealing with dismissals or proposed dismissals of shop stewards or other employee-representatives at the work place."

"The Government now calls on all parties to return to the conference table and, guided by the best industrial practices as enshrined in legislation and industrial codes in other democratic parts of the Commonwealth, seek to arrive at a solution consonant with the dignity of the worker as well as industrial discipline."

Meanwhile as the Barbados Workers' Union prepares for a massive demonstration in Bridgetown tomorrow in support of the strike by workers at the Telephone Company, more support is pouring in from overseas.

Among the cables which have arrived expressing solidarity is one from the Brussels-based multi-million member International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the Postal Telegraph and Telephone International (PTTI) with headquarters in Geneva.

The ICFTU cable read: "International Confederation of Free Trade Unions fully supports struggle waged by Barbados Telephone Workers regarding dismissal President of Telephone Division of Barbados Workers' Union. Please convey our solidarity to strikers and send us any available information. Are cooperating with PTTI."

The cable was signed by Otto Kersten, General Secretary of the ICFTU.

The PTTI cable read: PTTI expresses solidarity with striking Telephone workers. Please send further information, particularly concerning assistance required."

Another cable from the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union. It read: "Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union extends militant solidarity striking Telephone workers. Expresses deep concern intransigent attitude of employers."

In the meantime, the Bridgetown Dock Workers, together with other divisions in the BWU, have given substantial support to the striking workers.

The strike started from midnight on Thursday, January 8, and is in support of Mr David Giles, president of the Telephone Company Division of the BWU.

Giles was dismissed from the company early last month.

CSO: 3025

BRIEFS

NEW UNION--A new union has been formed in Barbados. It is the Barbados Clerical Union (BCU). The Rev. Sinclair Rudder who has been nominated general secretary, said that the BCU which is expected to be registered shortly, will represent all categories of workers. He said however, that emphasis will be placed on the clerks who are currently not now affiliated to any Union. He estimates that there are some 15 000 clerks who are not members of a Union. Mr Rudder said: "Our Union will be trying to reach those unreachables." He said that the BCU was in the making over the last three years, adding that great efforts were made within the last four months to bring it closer to reality. "We are also concerned about the fact, that many of the Trade Unions in the Caribbean are being infiltrated by so-called socialists, and are promoting policies which have nothing to do with the interest of the workers," Mr Rudder said. He said that in the matter of discipline, the BCU is against wild-cat strikes, go-slows, or stoppage of work while negotiations are in progress with employers. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Jan 81 p 1]

CSO: 3025

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR FIRING OF MINISTER MARSHALL

Contempt for Public

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 26 Jan 81 p 4

[Editorial: "Marshall Must Go"]

[Text] It has been alleged that the Hon. Ralph Marshall, Minister of Works, Agriculture and Fisheries, considers environmentalism "just a passing fad." The truth is that environmentalism and the people who advocate the protection of the environment will be here long after Mr Marshall and his sins against the condition of our Country have entered the history books as viciously destructive and never to be forgiven.

We call upon the Premier this morning to publicly fire Mr Marshall and to relegate him in disgrace to a seat on the back bench, a seat which he does not deserve since he has displayed his contempt for the public.

Many people have considered Mr Marshall simply rather dull and misguided. After last week he is obviously more than that. He appears to be cynical, reprehensible, untrustworthy and willing intentionally to fly in the face of public opinion.

He has wilfully given an order to knock down the Paget cottage while concerned people continued to plead for a reprieve. A man who would treat citizens of this Country, and the Country itself, in that manner demonstrates certifiably that he is not fit to be a Minister of the Crown.

If Government hopes to have any public confidence this morning, it can try to recoup by the instant removal of Mr Marshall.

We note that this kind of viciousness occurs right after an election, not before. It can be assumed that these acts of public defiance have been saved up, that cynicism has prevailed and Mr Marshall, if not the entire Government assumes these dastardly acts will be forgotten by 1985.

Not so. They create a pattern and Mr Marshall has given environmentalists and the Bermuda National Trust Paget, a loud and clear message...trust no one, we cannot be trusted. It is a very strange way for Government to begin a new term.

This is an open message, visibly delivered. Bermuda is now subject to a wrecking ball in the hands of a Minister who cares less, responsible to a Government which has failed to control him.

Look out, that Paget super-highway will be next.

Mr Marshall says he will consult the people of Paget. Do you believe him after Friday?

It appears that that attempt at a retaining wall in Paget earlier last week was just a Public Works diversion to distract concerned citizens and the National Trust from the real plot of the week.

Is it possible to believe that people reelected this man and a Government placed him in a position of trust? He then engages in early morning skulduggery in order to demonstrate his contempt for every Bermudian who loves this Country.

Mr Ralph Marshall's policy of desecration in the name of progress has always been clear but to add to that visible contempt for Bermudians is to betray the trust the public placed in him and to bring the Government he seeks to serve into disrepute.

The people must now have the message. Reason, wrangle or petition will not prevail with Mr Marshall. He will have his own wilful and destructive way. You, the people, are like so many roaches to be trampled on, brushed aside and discarded as trash.

Mr Marshall will not or cannot listen. We know he does not comprehend.

We leaves all of those who love Bermuda, are concerned with its protection and for its future with very little choice.

We cannot and will not advocate civil disobedience but Mr Marshall's behaviour demands a reply. In unity there is always strength. Come together, meet together, show this Government that you can and will have as much power as it has given Mr Marshall. You are Bermuda and you owe Bermuda a future.

We will report you and support you every step of the way.

Marshall and his bulldozers must go.

For the sake of Bermuda, go on your own Mr Marshall.

Premier's Support

HAMILTON THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 27 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] The Premier, the Hon. David Gibbons, yesterday defended the decision of the Hon. Ralph Marshall, Minister of Works, to demolish the controversial Paget Cottage.

But, saying that he planned to meet on Wednesday with the group of Paget residents who had protested the demolition, Mr Gibbons did add that Mr Marshall should have informed the group of his plans.

"I can only say, it was an unfortunate lack of communication," explained Mr Gibbons in a Government press release.

While the group had not requested a meeting with Mr Marshall, the Premier said, it would have been a courteous gesture to have let them know the building was going to be demolished.

Mr Gibbons went on to say the decision to demolish the cottage was made for reasons of safety and economy, which Mr Marshall had outlined on the weekend.

He had acted in the interest of economy and safety. The building was of no use to Government and since being vacant had become unsafe and a harbouring place for squatters.

Meanwhile, members of the Paget group met yesterday with Minister of Transport the Hon. William McPhee.

Mr John Wadson, one of the group, described the meeting as very encouraging. The group put forward the view that the solution of Bermuda's traffic problems lay with the Transport Ministry and not in widening roads.

Mr McPhee had indicated his intention to reactivate the Traffic Review Committee to look at the situation. "We were encouraged and impressed by his sincerity, willingness to communicate and openness to public feedback," Mr Wadson said.

He added that while no definite agreement on a further meeting had been made, he was confident that channels had been created by the meeting through which further communication could take place.

Referring to Wednesday's meeting with the Premier, Mr Wadson said the group would discuss the difficulty it had in dealing with Mr Marshall.

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PLP OPPOSITION LEADER CALLS FOR RENEWED CHALLENGE

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 21 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The Progressive Labour Party must be prepared to fight another general election within weeks or months, rather than years, the Leader of the Opposition warned last night.

Speaking at a party meeting in Warwick, Mrs Lois Browne Evans said: "We feel that this country will, for the next weeks or months, stand poised for a possible general election or by-election. Thus it behoves us always to be vigilant and to be ready."

P.L.P. supporters, she said, should not sit back and bask in the pleasure of having narrowed the gap between the parties in December's election.

"We call upon you to be ready to renew the challenge and to put us in as the Government of this country."

Mrs Browne Evans said that the P.L.P. was content to wait for its next opportunity. "We believe in the democratic process. We will take this Government by the democratic method of universal adult suffrage."

The Leader of the Opposition said that the party also intended to do everything in its power to see that the first-past-the-post election system was maintained, with the introduction of single seat constituencies of equal value.

"That is going to be one of the number one issues in the coming months... It won't be too long before this country will be filling halls with people interested in the debate on whether we have proportional representation (favoured by the United Bermuda Party) or remain, like all the other great democracies, with a first-past-the-post system."

The public meeting, attended by just 50 people, was called to launch the P.L.P.'s voter-registration drive.

Mrs Browne Evans said the P.L.P. felt it necessary to participate in explaining to voters how to register, as Government advertisements and programmes do not seem to be getting the message across. "As we are the foremost teachers of politics in this country, it falls on our shoulders to get out and about and bring home to the voters of this country that we want to get just about all the voters over 21 on that voting list."

TEXT OF OPPOSITION'S RESPONSE TO SPEECH FROM THRONE

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 24 Jan 81 pp 1, 4

[Text] Government has yet to come to grips with the real problems affecting Bermuda, Opposition Leader Mrs Lois Browne-Evans claimed yesterday in a low-key response to the Throne Speech.

In her 15-minute reply--described as "unemotional and temperate by one Minister--she said that the U.B.P. Government had failed in its task, despite being in office for 16 years.

There had been no effort to make all Bermudians feel they were an "integral part" of their country, with a vested interest in seeing it succeed.

Mrs Browne-Evans said Government's much-vaunted housing programme was long overdue and still seriously inadequate.

"For years these inadequacies and the endurance of substandard housing have created the environment for many of the social problems afflicting Bermuda today," she said.

Providing homes which people could buy did not help those most in need--lower income groups--who had no hope of buying their own home in the foreseeable future.

The Opposition Leader also urged Government to give more backing to Bermudian owning of guest houses and small hotels.

On the elderly, she welcomed promises of increasing pensions, but said that pensions were measured against a base point which was hardly an income on which people could live.

Mrs Browne-Evans said that the P.L.P. had noted that the Human Rights Bill was "on the horizon." But she added: "No amount of legislation can change men's hearts."

Mrs. Browne Evans' response in full was:

Government's 1980 Throne Speech is remarkable for its lack of any truly fresh initiative, its retreading of past politics and a continuation of a piecemeal, token approach to deep-seated problems afflicting Bermuda and its people.

This reiteration of past and well-worn phrases is thrown into even higher relief by the fact that the United Bermuda Party has now been in office for sixteen years, yet, as its own Throne Speech makes clear, it has yet to truly come to grips with the real problems that beset our community.

It is not the soul-searching, in-depth approach this community is appealing for, the approach needed to combat the monumental problems Bermuda faces — the antipathy of its young people, the growing problem of drug abuse — which is not even given a single mention in the Throne Speech — and the increasing feelings of alienation amongst Bermuda's elderly.

There is no evidence of any attempt to develop and encourage a feeling amongst Bermudians that all of them — every sector of this community — constitute a vital, integral part of their country, a feeling that every one of them has a vested interest in seeing it succeed — in short, a feeling of national pride and dignity — a feeling of "country".

Though careful management of the economy is of great importance, it is not enough to talk in merely these terms, for the economy is built and enhanced with the cooperation of the people — all the people — so Government must in the final analysis deal meaningfully with the human issues, the issues that affect the everyday quality of life for all Bermudians.

Mr. Speaker, Government talks in its Throne Speech of "continuing Bermuda's progress towards a society where there is social justice and economic opportunity for all Bermudians".

But instead we continue to see a pre-occupation with the welfare of only certain sectors of the community, and certain vested interests.

Government talks of again increasing pension benefits, yet such increases are inconsequential since they are measured against an absurdly low base point that it hardly a living income for any pensioner.

Mr. Speaker, Government's decision to give a grant to the Pembroke Parish Council for the operation of a day care centre for the elderly, even though a step in the right direction, throws into stark relief the long-standing lack of day care centres for the infants of working mothers in every parish of this country. Ever

since the very opening day of the day care centre at Happy Valley Road, Government has known that there is a desperate need for more facilities of this nature to assist those most in need who are unable to utilise the private day care nurseries.

The move to consider amendments to The Motor Car Act as it relates to those over the age of sixty-five is long overdue. What is needed in our opinion, is not just amendments to the Act, but a complete new Act.

The Progressive Labour Party welcomes Government's increased recognition of the United Nations and its programmes, in this case the U.N. International Year for Disabled Persons, and is glad that Government now sees Bermuda as a part of the world at large from which it can learn — and it is our belief that Bermuda should avail itself of all opportunities to travel to as many international conferences as we can as observers and generally to broaden our base in international relations and/or affairs.

The Progressive Labour Party is happy that the Stonington Beach Bermuda College project has at last become a reality, though it regards it as unfortunate that this project's opening was not better coordinated, in view of the dispute with its students over gratuities payments. The need for better communication channels is evident, for Bermuda's young people are clearly not prepared to be taken for granted and will be more and more assertive in the decade of the Eighties.

Government's housing programme is long overdue, and still seriously inadequate. For years these inadequacies and the endurance of substandard housing have created the environment for many of the social problems afflicting Bermuda today.

The provision of housing mainly for purchase does not relieve the plight of those most in need, the lower income groups, who cannot purchase a home in the foreseeable future, even under the most generous financing conditions.

There is a critical need for more housing for our people. Government must truly come to grips with this problem. Daily, we in the Opposition are being sought out for assistance with housing. Many of the cases are heart-rending and in some cases the tenants are prepared to pay fantastically high rents just to get a shelter over their heads. But then there are no places to rent at high cost or low cost. As a short term solution, Government must consider building houses for occupancy by Bermudians at a low rental.

With respect to home ownership, present day cost puts the dream of a piece of the rock beyond the reach of many families. The huge spiralling in

price of the Midland Heights houses up to \$75,000 strongly suggests that Government should carry over its policy of the subsidization of hotels, e.g. the Holiday Inn Hotel, into the sphere of housing for its citizens.

Government's endeavours to preserve arable land meets with views long expressed by the Opposition. But surely it is time for Government to take a much broader view on preserving of the environment. There is a crying need for more open recreational parkland in the denser populated parishes. We call upon Government to take the necessary steps to prevent any future large estates that come on the market falling into the hands of private developers.

Mr. Speaker, the 1980 Throne Speech still fails to take an imaginative and innovative approach to Bermuda's road traffic congestion. The 1980 P.L.P. election platform called for a closer co-ordination of bus and ferry public transport systems, to encourage commuters in particular to make better use of them and thus tend to discourage any more use of motor cars then necessary.

In the upgrading of the Bermuda Regiment, Mr. Speaker, greater efforts should be made to incorporate forms of vocational training for our young people, so that service in the Regiment can be of enduring use to them in later life.

We note that the Throne Speech promises of a White Paper on Sport and a Green Paper on Youth, and if both these and the promised Green Paper on the adverse effect of increased motor traffic are forthcoming, this promises to be an active session indeed. However, we on this side of the House have heard many promises in many Throne Speeches, and in fact we labelled one Throne Speech "Promises, Promises, Promises".

Government should be demonstrating its own faith and commitment to Bermuda as a first class resort destination, by actively encouraging greater participation of Bermudians in the industry at the ownership level, by giving greater assistance to small, Bermudian-owned tourist properties, and the encouragement of even additional ones in such ways as changing its emphasis when granting new guest room allocations.

We note that the long-awaited Human Rights Bill is now said to be literally on the horizon. But no amount of legislation can change men's hearts. We call upon the United Bermuda Party and its supporters, and the people of Bermuda to understand the true meaning of love, equality, and justice for all, in order that we might someday reach the point where such legislation is not needed.

The mention of the Warwick Camp constitutional conference without the inclusion of a reference to the electoral systems espoused by both political parties at that conference renders the Throne Speech's references to it meaningless.

The Progressive Labour Party remains unwaveringly committed to the electoral system of single seat electoral constituencies of as near equal population as possible — a system of one man, one vote, each vote of equal value, a system easily understood by all.

A new electoral system, in the form of proportional representation, which is being studied by the United Bermuda Party, but not worthy of mention by them in this Throne Speech, can only cause more emotional divisiveness in a country which we are trying to unite.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, except for the usual reference to the prosperity of the country, the Throne Speech fails to indicate how the Government intends to deal with the serious economic problems facing all Bermudians. Acute inflation, the continuing Bermuda dollar shortage and the attendant shortage of mortgage funds, the cost of credit and the impact of rapid growth in the international company sector of the Island's infrastructure, are four economic problems facing Bermudians.

We point out these problems because we know that each by itself has the potential to seriously damage that very prosperity which all Bermudians have worked to achieve and to which the Throne Speech makes reference. When taken together, one must realise their impact on the lives of our citizens and should advocate immediate remedial action. This Throne Speech fails to indicate Government's plan of action to counteract the negative fall-out of such a combination.

FOOD, OVERALL COST OF LIVING UP 25 PERCENT, 15 PERCENT IN YEAR

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 23 Jan 81 pp 1, 6

[Text] The price of food increased by almost 25 percent between November, 1979 and November, 1980, statistics released by the Government Statistical Department showed yesterday.

And the overall Bermuda cost of living increased by almost 15 percent over the same time period. That figure remained unchanged from the average of the previous three months and was down slightly from the 15.1 percent retail price index increases for the previous two quarters in 1980.

The retail price index for November, 1980 increased 0.8 percent over the October figure.

Increases in the price of food accounted for nearly half of the monthly change in the all items index," a statement issued by the Statistical Department indicated.

"In total, the cost of the food basket increased 1.4 percent over the month, in response to higher prices for a wide variety of foodstuffs."

In other areas of the R.P.I. rent advanced 0.8 percent for the month of November, clothing and footwear 1.1 percent, household appliances and services 0.9 percent, transport and vehicles 0.4 percent, education and recreation 0.6 percent, and health and personal care 0.4 percent. Tobacco and liquor showed no change. And the fuel and power index fell 0.7 percent owing to a decrease in the fuel adjustment clause for electricity.

For the year November, 1979 to November, 1980, rent costs increased 8.8 percent, clothing and footwear 14.4 percent, tobacco and liquor 6.7 percent, fuel and power 14.9 percent, appliances and services 9.2 percent, transport and vehicles 12 percent, education and recreation 14.9 percent and health and personal care 15.6 percent.

The retail price index now stands at 137.1, up 37.1 percent from its January, 1978 base of 100.

PREMIER REACTS TO U.S. CONCERN OVER TAX HAVEN ISSUE

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 23 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] Bermuda has the right to protect its residents from attempts by foreign governments to impose domestic legislation outside their own territories, the Premier, the Hon. David Gibbons said yesterday.

But he admitted that he was not surprised that the United States Internal Revenue Service was reported to have called for a "coordinated attack on the use of tax havens to curb the potential for serious abuse of the U.S. tax system."

Mr Gibbons said that Bermuda had little to fear from any such moves because "we simply operate on our own merits, and not on the avoidance of tax. Indeed, not."

A recently published set of findings written by I.R.S. special counsel, Mr Richard Gordon, recommends that the I.R.S. be given improved access to the records of American businesses and individuals operating through tax havens to better scrutinise the operations of such companies and individuals.

But that access would need the prior consent of communities such as Bermuda, and Mr Gibbons said at this time "there are no plans to make any representation either to the Internal Revenue Service or to the United States Government."

The U.S. tax authorities have become increasingly concerned at the use of foreign tax havens and the I.R.S.'s apparent inability to monitor such use by taxpayers ranging from multi-nationals to private citizens.

The I.R.S. concedes that in many cases the use of havens to defer taxes or claim credits, is legitimate. But it points out that it has no way of checking and argues that the tax laws are in urgent need of tightening up.

Mr Gibbons said that the U.S. Government was quite entitled to attempt to plug loopholes in its tax laws, but he stressed that foreign countries such as Bermuda have a right to protect their residents from the imposition of foreign domestic legislation.

BRIEFS

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL--Acting Governor Mr Peter Lloyd yesterday announced that Mr Saul Froomkin O.C., is to be Bermuda's new Attorney General. Mr Froomkin, who has served as Solicitor General in the Attorney General's chambers since March 1978, succeeds Mr Gerald Collett O.C., who retires from the post tomorrow. The new Attorney General will be sworn in on Wednesday morning in the Senate Chamber. Prior to coming to Bermuda, Mr Froomkin was one of Canada's senior law officers in the Canadian Federal Department of Justice in Ottawa, holding the position of Director of Criminal Law. His responsibilities included the supervision of all Federal prosecutions across Canada, extradition proceedings and treaties and the drafting of criminal legislation. Before being appointed Director of Criminal Law, Mr Froomkin served for seven years as a senior advisory counsel with the civil litigation section of Canada's Department of Justice. He was educated at the University of Manitoba, where he gained his Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws degrees. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1975. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 Jan 81 p 1]

INTEREST RATE LIFT--Government's 7 percent ceiling on local interest rates is unlikely to be lifted in the near future. A Government spokesman said yesterday: "The whole question of whether or not the current interest rate ceiling will be raised is the subject of discussions between the Ministry of Finance and the Bermuda Monetary Authority. Because of the complexity of the issue, and the need for wide-ranging consultations, no decision on whether the interest rate is to be raised is expected to be reached in the immediate future." The Government statement was issued following a stream of calls for the interest rate ceiling to be raised. Those supporting the move included Mr Reginald Carter, the Chief General Manager of the Bank of Bermuda. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 22 Jan 81 pp 1, 2]

ESPINOSA WANTS TO BE SOLE LIBERAL CANDIDATE

Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 20 Jan 81 pp 10-14

[Interview with Augusto Espinosa Valderrama by Margarita Cubillos; date and place not given]

[Text] He married a cousin after they had been engaged for 6 years. It was somewhat difficult because in those days there was a real taboo against such marriages. Ultimately, all of the difficulties were overcome and the marriage took place, 37 years ago. "We've been very happy," emphasizes Augusto Espinosa Valderrama with a satisfied smile, as his face glows with memories of his youth. It is this same striving to achieve happiness by surmounting difficulties, with a deep-seated conviction that he knows what he wants, that has persuaded this veteran politician, a native of Tauro and a resident of Santander, to continue as a Liberal Party presidential candidate in spite of the proliferation of hopefuls and the "high-level sponsors" that some of them seem to have.

Espinosa Valderrama is calm when discussing this point because he trusts that the National Liberal Directorate "will not become the agency of a specific candidate. I have not only admiration and fondness but profound respect as well for the former presidents of the republic," he says. That is why I am certain that they are going to be the most honest of arbiters and will permit the free expression of the will of the people within the Liberal Party so that, without loaded dice, without interferences or impositions, it can select whom it considers to be the best single candidate to run in the next presidential election."

The former minister and senator, who defines Liberalism as "a necessary coalition of left-wing persuasions," stresses that his banner of struggle "is the essential social transformation and ideological renewal of Liberalism towards a democratic and constructive left." It is astonishing to hear such views from a man who has already reached age 60. But Espinosa Valderrama says it with conviction, one would almost say with the anguish of a person who has suddenly

realized that time is running out for irreversible processes and that it is impossible to stop the hands of the clock.

A 'Genuine' Santander Man

Augusto was the eldest son of Abdon Espinosa Uribe and Isabel Valderrama, who had three other boys and two girls. His father was from Curiti, which was also the birthplace of Alejandro Galvis Galvis, Ismael Enrique Arciniegas and Dr Francisco Santos, the father of Eduardo Santos. The first political experiences of today's presidential hopeful are, of course, closely tied to the famous Liberal former president, in whose political campaign he took part as a youth leader in swings through San Gil, Aratoca, Curiti and Mogotes in 1937 and 1938, when he was still an outstanding student at the Jesuit-run San Pedro Claver School in Bucaramanga.

Augusto Espinosa won the "excellence and industriousness" award every year at that school until his fourth year, when he went to Bogota to complete the last 2 years of secondary school at the Rosario School. He later withdrew from the "elite" of this traditional institution because for financial reasons he had to enter the National University, where his younger brother Abdon was also enrolled. "We lived together in a boarding house and we even shared the same room," the presidential aspirant tells us. When he was asked about possible confrontations, given his brother's acknowledged bad temper, Augusto laughed and admitted that in fact "we are very different and we often quarreled, which normally happens between brothers. But deep down there was always great affection and total identification, especially in the ideological sphere."

In the Assembly and Then in Banking

After Augusto Espinosa received his law degree, he returned to Bucaramanga. He was a circuit judge until late 1942, when he was nominated for the Departmental Assembly and resigned to run his political campaign. Not only was he elected, but he was chosen for the president's chair. "The assembly consisted mostly of young people," he now remembers. "I alternated with Mario Latorre, a Supreme Court justice, and Alfonso Gomez Gomez, the current governor of Santander."

A strange thing happened at the close of his term. Because of the economic crisis in 1930, many of the country's banks had closed their branches and then, 10 years later, as the depression was ending, were reopening them, and they were looking for young, dynamic people with an "image" to run

them. Thus it was that the freshman legislator wound up a banker, and from June 1943 to February 1946 he served as manager of the Bank of Bogota's branch office in Bucaramanga. But the political bug is incurable, and Espinosa Valderrama gave up his comfortable manager's chair to deliver the welcoming speech in honor of Gabriel Turbay, who was then beginning his presidential campaign. "I had a close and very great friendship with Gabriel Turbay. Along with Eduardo Santos, he is one of the people I admire most deeply," Espinosa explains.

The 'Old' and the 'New'

[Question] The recent candidate selection process seemed to be marked by a widening Liberal split between the "old" and the "new." Which of these groups do you feel you belong to?

[Answer] I acted with the utmost discretion, owing to my longstanding friendship with Dr Victor Mosquera Chaux and my recent but very cordial friendship with Dr Jorge Mario Eastman. I have been close to Victor Mosquera for many long years, ever since we first got to the Chamber together in 1947. I have had profound differences with Eastman in the past, but I value his importance, his merits, his ability as a political battler, and I realize that he is a new figure in the party, all of which leads me to profess a profound fondness for him. Furthermore, I don't think that a split arose between the young and the old, the new people and the old people. Dr Mosquera had young people with him, and Dr Eastman also had older people behind him who felt that he was competent and fit to assume that high office.

[Question] The confrontation was not, of course, between ages but between attitudes, inasmuch as Eastman presented himself as the standard bearer of a party renewal. In this regard, do you think that Liberalism needs this "breath of fresh air," especially when we consider that its longstanding political and social banners have drooped markedly?

[Answer] I think that the party has to be renewing itself all the time. I not only accept but I advocate the idea of an indispensable renewal. A party that does not renew itself falls apart. I do not think that that is Liberalism's fate; on the contrary, this party is in a position to retain decisive influence in the future.

[Question] How will this renewal have to take place?

[Answer] Above all, quickly. We have to create an awareness to speed up the process of change. If my generation, the 60-year old generation, intends to renew the party, just imagine how much we'll have to get done with the 50-, 40- and 30-year-olds waiting in the wings. The renewal of the party has to be urgently accelerated so that all generations have a chance and so that the young people keep their hopes up, because otherwise they might well feel that the Liberal Party has turned into a collection of old people and they might desert out of disillusionment or because they see all of the doors are closed to them in advance.

I did not seek it.

[Question] You have agreed to run for the nomination. But honestly, to what extent do you consider yourself a viable aspirant?

[Answer] To the extent that I could well be nominated as the Liberal Party's single candidate for president of the republic in 1982. And I am not saying this out of presumptuousness or immodesty. My candidacy has been spontaneous, emerging from wideranging and broad and representative sectors in the country. I was not the one who thought about running, as has been the case with some of my opponents, who proclaim themselves candidates and begin promoting their own name. My case was different. First of all, it was the result of an independent analysis by highly esteemed figures in the National Congress, senators and representatives from various regions of the country (starting with the coastal region) who decided that I ought to get involved in the candidate selection process with the possibility of becoming the single candidate.

After this universal proposal, official nationwide spokesmen of business, industry, commerce, agriculture, ranchers, intellectuals, students, university professors and labor leaders, of every persuasion of course, approached me with support and love. In view of these circumstances, I obviously feel that I am a totally viable candidate, and furthermore I am promoting my candidacy in consultation with all of these sectors.

I loaded him

[Question] But the impression exists, Dr Espinosa, that the "top party bosses" are backing the candidacy of Dr Virgilio Barco Vargas and that there will be a tacit agreement so that he emerges from the convention as the candidate. Don't you think that this is too much to fight against?

[Answer] Dr Virgilio Barco's candidacy was, in fact, launched by an editorial in EL TIEMPO, a paper with which I, of course, have very close and long-standing relations. In any case, they proposed him. The editorial is said to have been written by Dr Alberto Lleras Camargo. That is true. But EL TIEMPO now operates independently, and its objective is not to force things through but to promote the mobilization of the electorate so that the Liberal Party can independently win its own single candidate will be. Aside from this, Dr Alberto Lleras, who is now one of the members of the National Council, will be an impartial arbiter, in light of his past glories, his long career and his high moral standing. The National Liberal Directorate cannot take sides or promote any specific candidate. I have not only admiration and respect as well for the former presidents of the republic, but I am also certain that they are going to be the most honest of judges who will foster the free expression of the will of the people so that without any kind of interference or impositions, the Liberal Party can emerge as the best single candidate to run in the next presidential election.

The Modus Operandi

[Question] What do you feel is the most advisable modus operandi for the Liberal Party to go about choosing its single candidate without snags?

[Answer] I think that a politician's primary obligation is to know what his chances are, what backing he has. Thus, I am sure that over the next few months we presidential hopefuls will examine our consciences and see how we stand, and the ones who do not have a chance, who have not gotten the support they thought they had will gradually drop out, so that the party can eventually select a powerful, strong candidate who can successfully vie with the Conservative choice.

[Question] But if the aspirants do not show that degree of good will, what methods would the National Directorate have to pursue to make the choice?

[Answer] If the aspirants do not show good sense, the party as a whole will impose it. Formulas have been established. If we are going to hold a very wide-ranging convention, there will be votes taken during it. There will be majorities and minorities. The party has a golden rule, the rule of democracy, the rule of one-half plus one. Hopefully, of course, it won't be just one-half plus one, but rather unanimity or at least an overwhelming majority, because what we need is a single candidate with very broad backing, with the ability to bring all of the forces of Liberalism back together again. We must not forget that our party is an indispensable coalition of different persuasions. The candidate cannot exclude anyone. We cannot establish good and bad factions within the party. I like all Liberals; I consider them all good. I think that if we Liberals strive to move forward and work for the good of the republic, the Liberal Party will have a good chance to win the election by a wide majority. To do this, of course, we have to spur Liberalism forward towards the democratic and constructive left wing that is the unwavering polestar of the party. That is why I contend that Liberalism must restore the great alliance that once characterized it, regain the support of the legions of students and labor leaders and maintain very close relations with all segments and factions.

The Others

[Question] What do you think of the other Liberal presidential hopefuls and specifically of Dr Alberto Santofimio Botero?

[Answer] I have to be discreet, for obvious reasons, about the other Liberal aspirants. I criticize none of them because I feel that that is up to the members of the party, who are the ones who are going to choose. Alberto Santofimio is a Senate colleague, and we have a great personal friendship. He holds political views that do not exactly coincide with mine, but we exchange ideas because I feel that politics means exchanging ideas. When the exchange of ideas stops, the war begins. I think that the Liberal Party has to keep up the exchange of ideas so that there are no internal wars and so that we can all work together for whatever decision the party freely and independently makes.

[Question] What about the Conservative presidential hopefuls?

[Answer] It's also hard for me to take a stand on them. I have been friends with Belisario Betancur for a very long time, since 1958 when we were together in the Senate. We have also had showdowns on more than one occasion. As in 1970 and 1978, we will probably have the opportunity in 1982 to face off against each other again, but of course with the dignity and respect befitting a political contest.

I have had major differences and sharp clashes with Dr Gomez Hurtado. Throughout the tragic period in the country after 1949 Alvaro Gomez held positions radically and diametrically opposed to mine. We have also clashed recently as well, because as a politician without any originality, Dr Gomez Hurtado has been trying to revive all of the ideas of 19th century liberalism, all sorts of old-fashioned notions that the political and social liberalism that our party embodies has rejected. It has fallen to me to be a spokesman of the Liberal Party and, therefore, to confront Alvaro Gomez and point out the absurdities, dangers and inconsistencies of the proposals that he is putting forward in a number of liberal cloaks and guises that are obsolete and of no use for our times.

We recently had a sharp clash because he took liberties that I consider intolerable, and I naturally had to denounce such abuses, but without insults, because I am not in the habit of doing that since I regard the political struggle as a dignified ideological one. It is absolutely indispensable that political party confrontation be this way, but under no circumstances must the country go back to the eras of violence that were so tragic for Colombia's history.

During my Actions

[Question] In conclusion, Dr Espinosa Valderrama, the presidential hopefuls have been criticized for not setting forth programs, for not having ideas. How do you say to that?

[Answer] That criticism does not apply to me, because if I have done anything throughout my political career, it has been to put forth ideas and expound them and because during my recent years in Congress I have really worked very hard. Some liberals at times think that they can shirk their duty to come up with new ideas by demanding that others do so, when they are unable to put one forward. I have always put forth ideological proposals but with practical applications, because we must not be guilty of exaggerated adherence to an ideology. We must also demonstrate that we have the ability to implement our programs. It also happens often that people think they are the center of the universe, the only source of thinking, and they tend to say that their adversaries have lost all intellectual potential, are burned out and no longer have ideas.

[Question] Are there any names attached to this phenomenon?

[Answer] At times I don't like to cite names, but my words are clear enough so that informed persons will understand. Especially in the case of my fellow party members, I would rather invite them to show what their own ideas are and to make their proposals before criticizing others for their lack of ideas. What we have to try and avoid is the notion that politics is a sort of prescription book, a catalog of needs, so that the people can be fooled with misguided measures. The important and urgent thing is to create an awareness that the Liberal Party is still the best solution for Colombia and that the person who aspires to lead and represent the party is capable of living up to its historic prestige and of moving forward with vigor and an enthusiasm for renewal.



8743

CSO: 3010

PARLIAMENT APPROVES BILLS ON DEFENSE FORCES, LICENSE FEES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 14 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Tuesday, (CANA)--The Dominica House of Assembly yesterday passed an amendment to the legislation governing the Dominica Defence Force, but there was no stiff opposition to the measure.

The amendment, tabled by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, empowers the Defence Force Board to suspend from duty members who are charged with the commission of any military offence, or any other offence which is triable in a civil court.

When the Bill was first presented to Parliament, members of the Force demonstrated outside Parliament charging that the Bill had not been discussed with them.

The only opposition to the amendment came from an opposition senator who sought to find out whether members of the Board would be changed, but was told that provisions had been made in the law regarding the composition of the Defence Board.

Today's sitting of Parliament also saw the passage of the Finance Act 1980, by which the Government hopes to raise substantial revenue by increasing the licence fees of banks, companies and motor vehicles.

The legislation was opposed by former Finance Minister Michael Douglas who accused the Government of putting increased taxes on the citizens, adding "there seems to be no end in sight to the measures of taxation."

Mr Douglas called on the Speaker of the House to have the vote on the matter taken individually but the outcome still ensured government's passage of the legislation.

Two motions which were down on the order paper for today's parliamentary session, one of which calls for Dominica Government support for the liberation movements in South Africa have been put back to the next sitting scheduled for January 22.

CHARLES ASSERTS NEED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN CARICOM

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Jan 81 p 9

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Monday, (CANA)--Dominica's Prime Minister, Eugenia Charles, yesterday expressed the desire to see some changes in the treaty establishing the Caribbean Community Common Market (CARICOM), and called for a meeting of heads of government to discuss the future of the movement.

Miss Charles was at the time answering questions in a radio programme in which she discussed various aspects of her government's policy, its plan and the economic position of the island, among others.

In calling for a meeting of regional heads of state, Miss Charles said "one of the things that make me think we should be talking round the table is the way in which Grenada lashed out at Barbados: I do not think it does any good to the area, to have one country shouting at the other on the radio...this is never good in politics."

"I think it would be good if we could get round the table and discuss these things and not have people shouting out...I think you can discuss much more reasonably when you are face to face than when you have...a microphone in front of you."

Grenada and Barbados were involved in a verbal exchange after Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams urged his Grenadian counterpart Maurice Bishop to hold general elections. Bishop came to power in a coup on March 13, 1979.

Miss Charles said that she did not believe a CARICOM heads of government conference would deal with the individual foreign relations of any particular member country, noting "your foreign relations are in fact your personal and private internal affairs. I do not think these things will be discussed."

Asked about possible items other than the Barbados-Grenada affair, Miss Charles said that she would like to see some changes in the treaty establishing CARICOM.

"I believe...there are certain changes that require alterations in the treaty, and we could only do this by discussing it."

She added: "Obviously if we can have questions asked each year--is CARICOM working--it requires being looked into, and I believe that some amendments to the treaty would be required."

She predicted that the eventual idea behind CARICOM would be that "it will be patterned on the European Economic Community (EEC) in method, 'noting however' we are a long way from having a West Indian Parliament as such...but if you are looking for closer union and you are not looking for a complete federation, I presume that is the pattern we will eventually follow, but we have a lot more hurdles to pass before we reach that stage."

Miss Charles also dealt with economic matters. She said that despite the present world economic situation, her administration had the confidence that it would be able to obtain finance for the various projects it hopes to implement during her term of office.

She noted that the recent increase in oil prices by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) means "we would have to be without some things if we are to balance our budget...but we can avoid a lot of this if we get into much more production ourselves locally..."

She added that during a brief visit to Puerto Rico she had met with several businessmen, noting that a team would be arriving here before January 27 to look at areas of possible cooperation.

CSO: 3025

BRIEFS

GUYANA RADIO ASSISTANCE--Georgetown, Guyana, Monday (CANA)--Deputy chief engineer with Guyana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) Donald Daly, is now on a three-month assignment with the Dominica Broadcasting Service. Mr Daly is helping the island's lone radio station maintain its transmitting services and train junior staff in updated maintenance practices. His attachment with the Dominica station was made possible through the technical assistance programme of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU). Dominica had asked the CBU to help it acquire the technical assistance to overcome maintenance problems at the Dominica Broadcasting Service. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 13 Jan 81 p 9]

CSO: 3025

CANADIAN AID WILL CONTINUE DESPITE ABSENCE OF ELECTIONS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 16 Jan 81 p 8

[Text] Canada's bilateral assistance to Grenada, and its multilateral programme through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) have not been affected by the absence of general elections in Grenada, two senior Canadian government officials said in Barbados on Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Mark MacGuigan and High Commissioner Allan Roger said that Canadian assistance was continuing in answer to a question at a news conference on the eve of Mr MacGuigan's departure for St. Kitts-Nevis on the second stop of a Caribbean tour.

The question was related to fears expressed by Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams last year that international funding could well dry up if the New Jewel Movement (NJM) government in Grenada failed to call elections, as was promised after it took power in a coup d'etat in March 1979.

Canada is continuing its aid programme to Grenada. In general, our policy is not to allow our aid programmes to be affected by political considerations," said Mr MacGuigan.

Elaborated Mr Roger: "Canada is not amongst those countries whose input in the CDB is in any way affected by the form of government in Grenada."

However, Mr MacGuigan recalled that Canada has in the past stopped assistance to some countries which had become undemocratic.

He noted that Canadian aid to Cuba was suspended in early 1977, against the background of Cuban assistance in the Angola civil war.

"We felt if Cuba could afford to finance adventurism, they could afford their own development," said Mr MacGuigan.

But he emphasised that short of similar extreme developments elsewhere, Canadian assistance will continue. And he made it clear that Canada treated threats from both extreme left and the extreme right in much the same way.

In expanding on Mr MacGuigan's answer, High Commissioner Roger described Canadian assistance to the CDB as an act of trust.

He noted that Canadian aid fell into three categories--ordinary capital resources, untied special funds and tied special funds. In addition, Canada also has an on-going technical assistance programme with the CDB.

"None of these styles has altered since March 13, 1979, nor has Canada's director (on the CDB board) received particular instructions concerning his part in the operations of the bank." (CANA)

1025

OPPOSITION LEADER DISPARAGES U.S. VIEW OF EL SALVADOR

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 16 Jan 81 p 9

Text

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada. Thursday. (CANA) — Fernando Rivas, a representative of the opposition Democratic and Revolutionary Front (DRF) of El Salvador has said here that U.S. President-elect, Ronald Reagan is wrong in his stated assessment of the situation in El Salvador.

Rivas said that, at the recent meeting of Reagan and President Jose Lopez Portillo of Mexico, Reagan declared there is a civil war going on in El Salvador between the left, the centre which represents the Government and the right.

"This situation is in no way true of El Salvador", Rivas said,

"and the constitution of the democratic revolutionary Government reveals this."

The DRF representative said that grouped in the fight against the Government are the labour organisations, the social democrats, dissident sectors of the Christian democrats, teachers' associations and even some sectors of the army.

The anti-government forces include even some sectors of the Roman Catholic church which have decided to follow the advice of assassinated Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, to accompany the people in their

struggle, Rivas said.

"We do not have a situation in which the Government represents the centre," Rivas said. "The Government represents the right against the people and the Government has no support from the people."

The DRF representative said the present government of El Salvador is no more than a small minority of politicians who have support only from "the most repressive army" and the "military and economic support of the United States of America."

Rivas was a delegate to the Caribbean Workers Conference held in Grenada last weekend.

BRIEFS

SEEDS FROM CUBA--St. George's, Grenada, Thursday. (CAN.)--Cuba has given Grenada three kilograms of seeds for its forestry development programme, the Government Information Service (GIS) has announced here. The Cubans handed over two kilograms of pine and one kilogram of eucalyptus seeds to the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture. Grenada, for its part, will send Cuba seeds of local forestry trees around the end of March. Grenada has been putting considerable emphasis on development of its large, but relatively untapped forestry reserves. The Forestry Division is now establishing a corporate body to enable it to obtain loans for financing projects in forestry development, the GIS said. In addition, Government has already ordered tractors, trucks and motors for the industry. A one-mile road will be constructed into the Grand Etang forest to provide easier access to the timber resources, said the GIS. Production this year is expected to be around a half-million board feet of timber. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 16 Jan 81 p 3]

REGIONAL COUNCILS ELECT CHAIRMEN, DEPUTY CHAIRMEN

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Jan 81 pp 1, 4

[passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Test] /Members of each of the 10 Regional Democratic Councils yesterday elected their respective Chairmen and deputies./

The elections held under the Local Democratic Organs Act were conducted at 10 a.m. yesterday at Paradise East Coast, Demerara, Klien-Poudroyen on the West Bank of Demerara, Maburama, Anna Regina, Fort Wellington, Whim, Bartica, Mahdia, Lethem and Linden.

Voting was done by a show of hands.

Prior to the elections, 205 councillors elected in the December 15 elections were officially sworn in by specially appointed Regional Council Clerks.

At yesterday's sessions 35 elected councillors of the Demerara-Mahica Regional Council took the oath and proceedings to elect PNC candidates /Ivan Remington/ Chairman and /Cecilia Imhoff/ Deputy Chairman of the Region.

Remington, a refrigeration technician, has 18 years' experience in local Government affairs, 16 of which he spent as chairman of the Craig Village Council.

The Deputy Chairman /Cecilia Imhoff/ is a retired headteacher. Both nominated PPP candidates /Laurence Ramsamy and Herbert Britton/ were defeated in their bid for chairman and deputy respectively.

At the gathering were 28 PNC councillors, six from the PPP and one for the United Force. The election was supervised by Felix Pompey, the Clerk of the region.

Atat Klien in the Essequibo-West Demerara Region 3, some 17 councillors were contacted and they elected /Hazel Rayman and Enid Abrahams/ as Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively.

Nominated PPP candidates /Rumal Chand and Trihowan/ received eight votes each while the PNC candidates walked home with the remainder.

In Region 6, East Berbice-Corentyne, former New Amsterdam Mayor /Maurice Haniff/ and school teacher /George Narine Singh/, both of the PNC, won easily from the two PPP nominees.

Haniff, an Attorney-at-Law beat PPP's /George Carl Douglas/ by 20 votes to 10 while Singh, of Number 48 Village, defeated PPP councillor /Muntaz Ali/ by a similar margin.

Support for the regional system was indicated through a picketing exercise carried out by PNC supporters shortly before the elections.

Two Amerindian-Supenaan veteran farmer-politicians /Kenneth 'Bagie' Hopkinson and Amerindian/ Captain of the Mainstay-Wayaka Amerindian community were elected chairman and vice-chairman respectively.

The PPP councillor, /Warren Chase/, declined nomination and allowed /Cde Williams/ to be elected unopposed.

At Rorifia, where the elections for the Mazruni-Cuyuni District elections were held, /Mazruni school teacher from Wineperu /Garvey Harry/ was elected chairman while /Lawrence Anselmo/ was elected vice chairman.

The Councilors will have their second meeting on January 17. Through the election process at this meeting a representative would be elevated to Parliament and would be charged with the responsibility of representing his constituency in the National Assembly.

Further, two members from each region would be elected to serve on the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs. This grouping which would in effect take the place of the Guyana Association of Local Authorities, would consist of 20 councillors. These will elect two members from each region to sit in the National Assembly.

Results for the five other Regions Barima-waini, Potaro-Supenaan, Upper-Makari River, Mahaica-Berbice and Upper Takatu-Essequibo are not available.

GNEC PLANS MULTIMILLION DOLLAR EXPANSION IN FOUR AREAS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Jan 81 pp 1, 7

[passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] /The Works/Foundry Division of the Guyana National Engineering Corporation (GNEC) will spearhead a multi-million dollar expansion in four areas. This will cover the foundry itself on Lombard Street; ship-building; ship-repair; and efforts will be concentrated on streamlining the machine-shop and engineering fabrication facilities./

These projections were outlined in a recent overview of the corporation's activities given by Executive Chairman, Pat Carmichael.

The foundry will be expanded from the current level of 100 tons of casting a year to over 500 tons a year.

Said Cde Carmichael: "It is a known fact that no country can embark on an industrialisation programme unless it has the capability for forming and shaping its own metal./

"The first stage of forming metal is at the grey iron foundry stage, and the ultimate stage is in the steel smelting stage," he noted.

Currently, the foundry supplies mainly the sugar industry with castings for its replacement parts; but it is envisaged that very soon it will also satisfy the bauxite, timber, textile, forest and rice industries in all their requirements for cast-iron spare parts.

The area of service has also been broadened to include such items as bushings and small castings to several small manufacturers.

Also with the expansion of the foundry, this department will manufacture irrigation pumps, certain machine components made of cast-iron, items such as man-hole covers for the sewerage works and several industrial and domestic items made of cast iron.

Plans are that the second phase of the foundry expansion will allow it to produce malleable iron which can be used for cast iron piping and a number of more technical manufacturing components.

The expansion is valued at G\$5M to \$7 million over the two phases. Government loanings have already been given and it is now with international agencies for financing. The first phase of the expansion will begin this year.

The major thrust for the works/foundry division is in the ship-building area. The plant is staffed and in taking the form of the widening of the shipyard which will accommodate more than twice the present production.

In addition, work has begun on the rehabilitation of the old slipway which, when completed, will operate both as a docking facility for building ships as well as a modified dry dock for ship repair.

These physical developments will ensure that GNEC has the capacity for building more vessels in the future. Apart from the physical expansion, over the last two years, work has been progressing on the development of a shrimp vessel suitable for operations in local waters and in the nearby regions.

"In 1981 we will commence the building of our first developmental trawler, and we are hoping that this trawler will find acceptability not only for Guyana's needs, but also in the export market," stated the GNEC Executive Chairman.

It is considered view that the traditional trawlers that we have purchased are generally in keeping with our needs, particularly in the area of fuel consumption to catch ratio, in the area of HP required to size of vessel etc," said Cde Carmichael.

He added that, "we have been working closely with the British Ship Research Laboratories as well as the Fisheries Help Programme in consultation with local experts."

"We have perfected a design that is acceptable from the trawler owners in this region and ourselves, mainly because of our ability to build such vessels," the Executive Chairman said.

A cargo vessel for the North West District is currently being built by GNEC with support from Damen Shipyards of Holland. The construction items are imported cut, and local skills are being utilized in assembling and the welding of the vessel, resulting in reduced costs.

The GNEC is also making an important thrust in the ship-repair area. But the current dry-dock is under heavy pressure and cannot take off the demand placed on it.

"Ship-repair to us is a very important business, and it is not sufficiently recognised as an area in which GNEC is an earner of foreign exchange," noted Cde Carmichael.

He disclosed that techniques in ship-repair work have not only been revamped, but with the addition of the converted slipway into a slipway-cum-drydock, capabilities in this area will also be further increased.

In addition to this, during the year several facilities will be installed. These include winches, lifting equipment, welding equipment and all kinds of infrastructural items needed for giving shippers a faster turn around of their vessels.

Efforts will also be concentrated on streamlining the machine-shop and

engineering, fabrication facilities. "For a long time there has been a demand in Guyana for the capability of producing spare-parts," explained the GNEC head.

He disclosed that under the US \$10 million Brazilian Line of Credit (GNEC has been allocated US\$1 million), machine tools are being purchased. On their installation in the country, an increased capability will be provided for making some aspects of automotive and other spare parts.

"We will be addressing our minds chiefly to the replaceable parts, such as brake drums, linings, brake pads and smaller components for which we can generate a substantial volume; in addition to making these items competitively."

"The re-organising of the machining in our foundry areas will be put under one umbrella and the additional equipment through the Brazilian Line of Credit will allow us to offer a better service."

It will enhance our machine-shop capabilities, so that by the end of 1983 we will represent a major engineering entity in terms of our capability to do machine-shop work," Executive Chairman Carmichael said.

STATE CORPORATION HEAD FINDS FAULT WITH 1980 RESULTS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 10 Jan 81 p 8

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Friday, (CAN) — Guyana's largely state-run timber and fishing industries were major sources of disappointment during last year, Ossie Baptist, executive vice-president of the Guyana State Corporation (GYSTAC) has said.

According to Mr. Baptist, "these areas which at the start of 1980 were regarded as having high potential proved during the year to be major sources of disappointment."

He did not provide production figures in a statement in which he reviewed the overall performance of GYSTAC — which oversees a large array of state-owned commercial ventures and public utilities — but declared "it is clear — that we have not yet mastered the complexities of managing resources-based industries such as fishing and timber."

Timber exports reportedly netted over G\$16.6 million last year but it too was unable to acquire figures to compare with performances in previous years in that industry.

Mr. Baptist said that business conditions during the year "continued to be difficult" and noted that while the trading corporations which control the imports and distribution of consumer goods and other items "did well in terms of surplus generated, standards or service have not yet attained desired levels."

He said that the public utilities, which include transportation, electricity and the telephone system, "reflected severe management shortcomings." He added that very few exceptions, performance both in terms of surplus and service represented a deterioration from the standards achieved in 1979.

Mr. Baptist suggested that the GYSTAC group should gear itself to exploit what he called significant export opportunities, particularly in the area of processed foods.

He said that would require a significant shift in managerial orientation and "a breakthrough in terms of productivity and packaging if we are to be competitive in the harsh world of exports."

He said the group had not traditionally given much emphasis to exports, but argued, "the trading posture of the country — dictates that exports must be stimulated if we are to generate the means of paying for the increasingly expensive inputs such as fuel, raw materials and capital goods which our economy required to survive."

The public utilities needed to improve their image this year, he said, and added that for the trading entities, their improvement of relationships with

consumers was a matter of urgency.

Mr. Baptist expected that the businesses would complete a rationalisation of their pricing policies, started last year, and that they would "continue to pass on — the benefits to be derived from more diversified procurement policies."

Despite the drawbacks suffered last year, Mr. Baptist felt that 1980 still saw solid progress in "a number of important directions."

He cited improvement in the internal audit service, in the quality of financial control and the consolidation of an information system as examples.

He also took issue with critics or public sector managers who he said blamed the managers for most of the real or imagined shortcomings of the ventures.

"Many of our managers are functioning with inadequate physical, financial or manpower resources and under conditions in which authority and responsibility are not in balance," he declared.

Conceding that there have been failures, Mr. Baptist however argued that those had to be placed in "perspective since to generalise in this respect would be a serious slur on the conscientious efforts of many persons who still place this country's interests above their own personal prospects in other environments."

OPPORTUNITY CALLS FOR CARICOM ACTION IN INTERNAL DISPUTES

Copyright GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Jan 81 p 7

[words enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

With Jamaica treading the winepress of violence--933 people estimated to have been killed violent in 1980--countries in the Caribbean Community will remember the pioneer sacrifices Jamaica made in the interest of liberation. They will recall the Morant Bay rising when the warlike Coramantees drove the British into the sea.

The spirit of the Jamaica Revolution lived again in the era of Bustamante and his cousin, Norman Manley. Though the tactics of Bustamante and Norman Manley differed, their objective of a Jamaica liberated from foreign dominance was identical. The swashbuckling and picturesque figure of Bustamante, a revolver in one hand, striding through Kingston is still remembered by those who saw him. His nephew, Norman Manley made his contribution to Jamaica's ultimate attainment of independence. The conventional policy of Manley, balanced against the revolutionary flamboyance of Bustamante, showed that the Jamaica character has both the capacity for revolutionary strategy and parliamentary government.

From 1962 to 1966, the dramatic spectacularity of Jamaica's revolutionary experiment did, indeed, serve as a warning that independence could not be relied on in the Caribbean. When the independent Caribbean sees such a state in revolutionary arms as Jamaica dissipating its energies in futile warring, through the grief we feel we have to brood and moralise over the danger for the revolution there "consuming its own creatures."

It is all right over the paradox of the revolution there consuming its own creation. The Jamaican answer in a flash of inspiration--unbreakable national unity is the solution to the Jamaican predicament and its being generated in other regional nations.

There is no room for factional wrangling. There is freedom to wrangle on internal issues except those which jeopardise independence, or illustrate the inability to be independent. Though the two cousins were in confrontation, leading issues meant more to them than the issues in dispute. It was the only place in the Caribbean where the sanctity of independence that Jamaica has been able to maintain in the Caribbean to break the shackles of colonial rule and the Blue Mountain.

/It is time for Jamaica to be concerned about the future of its independence while national disunity continues. It is time, too, for the Caricom Council of Ministers to think about establishing an organisation in Caricom which, with the consent of governments, will be empowered to arbitrate in disputes such as those which plague Jamaica./

By "arbitrate" I do not mean unilateral intervention because that would be a violation of independence. I mean the voluntary submission by plagued governments of such problems to which I term the "Caricom Reconciliation Council." Call it what one may, such an organisation is urgent and vital. Its existence would show the region's realisation that problems are unavoidable and, rather than let them develop into proportions, which give the enemies of the Independent Caribbean an instrument for engineering our re-enslavement, the region will solve them voluntarily.

Let's hail Jamaica's historic role in Caribbean liberation. Let's brood over the Jamaica predicament, today. Let's ensure that it does not overspill elsewhere.

OPPOSITION ORGAN ASSAILS NEW BURNHAM CABINET

Georgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 13 Jan 81 p 7

(Text)

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Monday (CANA) — President Forbes Burnham's new Cabinet and the increased national assembly came under further attacks from the Press here yesterday.

Mirror, organ of the Opposition Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) declared that the new Parliament, under the new socialist constitution which governed the running of the December 25 general and regional elections, would cost taxpayers over \$3 million a year and clamp more "pressure" on them.

The Catholic Standard, mouthpiece of the Roman Catholic Church, suggested Mr. Burnham's People's National Congress (PNC) had established a new production record. It now had "the highest number of ministers per head of the population for any state in the world," the Standard declared.

For good measure it has also registered another first, the first Minister for Mechanical Equipment in the world," it charged and added, "this is an interesting formula as one can now have a minister of electrical

equipment, radio equipment and so as it becomes necessary to find more jobs for the boys and girls.

The Standard stated that the "whole thing could be considered a joke, except for the fact that there is a serious side to it."

According to its calculations, Mr. Burnham's new group of ministers was likely to cost the taxpayers one-and-a-half million dollars a year in salaries, allowances, prerequisites, free cars, security guards and others.

The Standard also alleged that the President's Office was to be filled with special advisers "may of ministerial rank with all the accompanying allowances."

The Mirror predicted that the new parliamentary structure will be "just another big bureaucratic flop" involving millions of dollars.

It said that up to last year the total parliamentary bill had amounted to \$1.6 million but charged, "with 81 parliamentarians now instead of 62 and 31 ministers instead of 25, an

Executive President instead of a titular President, five vice-presidents instead of a deputy Prime Minister, along with numerous staff guards, perks and privileges, the grand total of the bill may reach \$3 million for 1981.

The Mirror said its figures excluded expenses for the new series of regional democratic councils and other organs elected to run community affairs in the country under the new constitution.

The new parliament, originally scheduled to be a 65-seat assembly, will now number 81, including Opposition parliamentarians, with the appointment of a set of technocrats (non-elected members as ministers and parliamentary secretaries in the new PNC Government).

According to the Mirror Mr. Burnham would be getting an annual salary of \$30,000 along with a \$12,000 duty allowance and \$14,400 for entertainment.

TIMBER EXPORTS KEEP PACE IN 1980 AT \$16.6 MILLION

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Balram Tulsi; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] /The Guyana Timber Export Board, marketing authority for local timber has exported in excess of \$16.6 million of the product for last year, Marketing Manager, Winston Headley said yesterday./

While comparisons with performances in previous years cannot be readily made, the official said that last year's figures reflected average achievement.

Greenheart continued to be the most exported wood and up to October last year \$3.7 million of the sawn type and some \$2.5 million of the dressed type were exported.

Quantities

Export of this hardwood was followed by purple heart, mora, wallaba and some 20 other species that are now being exported in commercial quantities.

On the average, each month saw the sale of more than one million dollars of the woods to the various buyers. In the last three months of last year, the figures were \$1.9 million for October, \$1.1 million for November and \$1.2 million for December. Figures for other months were not available individually.

Presently, local hardwoods are exported as sawn dressed and hewn lumber, as poles, piles, posts, shingles and logs.

The main markets for Guyana's timbers are located in the United Kingdom, USA, Canada, the Caricom region, and several European countries. The Caricom region, and several European countries. The Caricom region continues to be the major importer of timber while sometime in the year a quantity of the wood was sent as far as Iraq in the Middle East.

And the marketing staff of the 'Board' is now working out the details of sending some \$0.25 million of logs to Portugal. This would be the first shipment in 1981 and was negotiated directly between the Board, and the private company in Portugal. Most of the buyers of Guyana's timbers are private companies located in the countries with which Guyana trades. The official explained that only few of the deals are handled directly by foreign governments.

BRIEFS

TREASON TRIAL--The preliminary inquiry into the case of five persons accused of treason will continue before Magistrate Anthony Singh at the Leonora Magistrate Court on January 15 and 16, and it is expected that at least two more witnesses will be called by the police. [as published] Accused of attempting to overthrow the Government are Ivan Sookarm, Tickaram, Roland Cameron, Mahadeo Shivpersaud, and Mahadeo Awhdan, all of De Willem, West Coast, Demerara. The police are alleging that the men, between January and May 1980, at De Willem, West Coast, Demerara "formed an intention to overthrow the Government of Guyana by force and in furtherance of that said intention: (a) Conspired together with other persons unknown to train a number of persons in physical exercises and drills; (b) Provided firearms for the training of a number of persons in the use of firearms; and (c) Trained a number of persons in the use of firearms. A sixth man, Jinnah Rahaman, has not yet been arrested and a warrant had been issued for his apprehension. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 6 Jan 81 p 9]

CSO: 3025

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS MAY NOT BE HELD ON SCHEDULE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Local Government elections which should be held by March 6 this year, are likely to be postponed.

Indications are that legislation to postpone the elections will be brought to Parliament this week.

The elections, which should have been held in March last year, were postponed by Parliament for a year, thus extending the life of the present KSAC and Parish Councils a year beyond the statutory provision of three years.

Close Look

Indications of a likely postponement came after a close look into and assessment last week of the things still needed to be done before the elections may be held.

It appears that the carrying out of these functions within two months is likely to prove very difficult, if not impossible to do. The Labour and Public Service Minister J.A.G. Smith, who is responsible for Elections, said in response to questions that he was "aware that the KSAC and Parish Council elections ought properly to be held prior to March 6, 1981 unless legislation was brought to postpone them.

There are 269 electoral divisions or more than four times the sixty constituencies in a general election to the House.

While each ballot in a general election carries the constituency, the polling division, names and symbols of the candidates in that constituency, each ballot for the KSAC and Parish Council election has to carry not only the names and symbols of candidates, but the Polling Division, the Electoral Division and the parish in which these are located, an electoral spokesman said.

Up to Friday, a number of candidates had been unofficially named by the two major political parties but those were few by comparison with the total. With the naming of candidates still to be completed, printing of ballots for these elections by the Government Printer cannot begin.

Meanwhile, the Electoral Advisory Committee which met on Wednesday last week, has said it is "gearing itself" to be ready to conduct elections whenever called upon to do so.

THOMPSON WINS WEST ST ANDREWS SEAT IN RECOUNT

Re: edition THE DAILY GLEANER in English 7 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpt] The People's National Party candidate, Mr Dudley Thompson defeated the Jamaica Labour Party's Mr Owen Stephenson by 85 votes to win the controversial West St Andrew constituency seat yesterday morning according to the outcome of the magisterial recount.

The figures released in the St Andrew Resident Magistrate Court at Half Way Tree gave Mr Thompson 9,312 and Mr Stephenson 9,227.

Mr Thompson won the seat on the preliminary count on election night, October 30, polling 9,679 votes to Mr Stephenson's 8,930. The situation was reversed within a week when the final count gave Mr Stephenson 9,224 votes to Mr Thompson's 8,796.

Mr Thompson's victory would give the Opposition PNP 9 seats to 51 for the ruling JLP in the House of Representatives.

Against a background of charges and counter-charges by the J.L.P. and P.N.P. about irregularities perpetrated during the election and after the preliminary count, Mr Thompson applied for and obtained a magisterial recount.

Meanwhile Attorney General and Minister of National Security and Justice, the Hon. Winston Spaulding filed a writ in the Supreme Court seeking to have the election declared null and void.

This writ, according to the law cannot be heard until the magisterial recount is concluded. THE GLEANER was unable to determine yesterday when the Supreme Court would begin to hear the writ but it is likely to be heard this term.

13011 0025

WORKERS PARTY LEADER COMMENTS ON JLP VIEWS, FUTURE

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 16 Jan 81 p 2

[Article by Rachel Moseley: "JLP Is Strengthening Army--Munroe"]

[Text]

General Secretary of the Worker's Party of Jamaica (WPJ) Dr Trevor Munroe said he believes the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) is strengthening the army and police force in anticipation of a crisis occurring early in that administration's rule.

Dr Munroe said that new squads were being created in the army, such as the Eradication Squad. This squad's function is alleged when its existence is admitted, which is not all the time, to be concerned with anti-criminal activities.

However, it is the WPJ's view that this squad is designed to attack progressive movements at a later stage, Dr Munroe said.

The WPJ is a two year old Marxist-Leninist political party which supported the People's National Party (PNP) in the October elections but did not run any of its own candidates.

Dr Munroe in an interview last Tuesday at the Cave Hill Campus asserted that the conservative, pro-U.S. Jamaican Government is determined to reverse those policies and programmes which were put into effect during the PNP rule and are considered to be Socialist or Communist policies. Some of these are the National Home Guard, worker participation and community councils.

He stressed that the Government was extremely timid and fearful to bring about these changes because they realised

that the Jamaican people have not rejected socialism and any dismantling of these policies would have to be done by force. "Which is what we feel they are preparing to do," Dr Munroe said.

Dr Munroe believes that already set in train are arrangements to "immensely increase numbers in the army and the police" as well as to build up equipment stores. "We expect tanks, helicopters and gunships," Dr Munroe stated that this situation becomes even more important when one considers that the capitalist role is not going to solve the people's problems, nor will it meet the expectations generated during the election campaign.

He said that the cost of living in Jamaica is expected to rise by approximately 40 per cent this year and, he added, even if massive inflows of American investment do go into the country, it is unrealistic to expect that the 31 per cent unemployment rate will decrease. He said that the fact of inflation and continued unemployment at those levels laid a foundation for an early crisis in the administration's life.

Dr Munroe said that a situation might develop where the rights of people might be restricted, particularly the rights of the workers, unless such restrictions are successfully resisted.

He said the resistance would take the form of workers' struggles, court cases and the people in the community would have to be prepared to resist militant activity directed at progressive community leaders.

Dr. Munroe stated that it was his belief that the JLP has been careful to appear moderate because the base in Jamaica for pro-imperialist and anti-Communist policies does not exist.

He noted that this facade of moderation was evidence that the Jamaican people had not rejected Socialism and Communism. Dr. Munroe said that if the people had rejected these systems it would be expected that the massiveness of the mandate would provide the base for dismantling the socialist policies. But, he asserted, the Seaga administration hesitated in doing this because they knew that socialism and Communism had not been rejected.

Dr. Munroe stated that the WPJ is concerned with the false view that the Jamaican electorate had rejected socialism and Communism remained unchanged in the Eastern Caribbean and Barbados.

Dr. Munroe maintains that a number of facts prove this view to be incorrect. If the rejection of the PNP was a rejection of Socialism and Communism, Dr. Munroe affirmed, "one would expect that in those constituencies where the WPJ was openly and publicly active in the support of the socialist PNP candidates, that there would be the constituencies where the swing against the PNP would be most evident."

Dr. Munroe noted, however, that in many areas where the WPJ was most active and Communists were most prominent the swing against the PNP was substantially less than in constituencies where there

was no work being done by Communists.

Dr. Munroe stated further, that if the elections had indicated a rejection of socialism, then those PNP candidates who were most associated with socialism and had been attacked as being Communist should have lost their seats.

Dr. Munroe noted that this had not happened and he used Dr. D.K. Duncan, General Secretary of the PNP as an example of this. Dr. Munroe said that "this was not consistent with a mandate against socialism."

If the people had rejected socialism, the work of the WPJ would have been rejected. Dr. Munroe stated. He asserted, however, that the party's fortnightly newspaper "Struggle" still has a circulation second only to the Daily Gleaner in Jamaica. He noted also that the Communist-led trade union, the University and Allied Workers Trade Union was attracting greater numbers of workers seeking representation.

Dr. Munroe submitted that Mr. Manley was defeated at the polls, not for being too left but for being too soft. He stated that the people wanted the problem of violence dealt with firmly but instead Manley had been too soft on the terrorists, saboteurs and destabilisers of the previous Government.

The General Secretary said that violence in Jamaica has "naturally" abated after the elections because those forces responsible for the violence had achieved their goal and there was now no basis for them to continue with that level of violence.

Dr. Munroe stated that there was no doubt that the right wing and rich were behind the violence. He asked: "If the PNP were behind the violence, would it not be expected that it would still be at a high level?"

PNP, UNACCEPTING OF JLP VICTORY, MAY POSE SECURITY RISK

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Jan 81 p 6

[Text] Shortly after the October 30 JLP victory the Chief of Staff of the Army issued a warning about the danger of likely acts of economic sabotage in the aftermath of the JLP victory.

The ink has hardly dried on the Brigadier's warning before a babel of comments tried to make political capital out of the issue by distorting the statement and making it out to be a threat against the rights of workers.

An interesting thing has been happening since the October 30 rout of the PNP. The PNP leaders have been spreading incredible and rather silly rumours attempting to give the impression that the JLP victory was based on electoral manipulation, although the people know that the 1980 poll was the fairest election we have had.

One PNP allegation is that some mysterious CIA inspired chemical was used by persons unknown to create a chemical reaction which transferred PNP votes to the JLP slot on the ballot. Even if such a chemical existed the geniuses in the PNP have yet to explain how the alleged perpetrators of this fraud knew which ballots would be marked with PNP Xs and which ones with JLP Xs, as obviously chemical treatment of the JLP ballots would transfer the X to the PNP part of the ballot.

Of course, this and all the other allegations are little more than elaborate and mischievous propaganda designed by the sore losers in the PNP to avoid facing up to the realities which caused them to lose the election so badly.

Not surprisingly, one of the political duppies being invented by the PNP to explain away the election defeat is the idea that the GLEANER polls biased the vote towards the JLP on election day. The PNP leaders forget the fact that they had Paul Robertson on the JBC television screen making a fool of himself by confidently predicting a PNP victory when his own poll data showed large swings to the JLP in most areas of the island. They forget that Derek Gordon was used to back up Robert's myths by equally ludicrous predictions about a PNP electoral victory.

Many of the PNP leaders have not accepted the JLP victory and the people's decisive rejection of them on October 30. One spokesman promised revolutionary politics. One PNP apologist claims that Manley was too soft, thereby implying that the response to the JLP's victory and the people's choice was a resolve to seek to undermine it by any means possible.

Against the background of those events, the Brigadier's statement is quite understandable, although I would have preferred if he was less vague and more specific in pointing to the quarters from which danger might come.

Economic Sabotage

Most of the comments I have heard from citizens on the Montego Bay fire at the fuel installation suggest widespread beliefs in the danger of economic sabotage from quarters in the political system that wish to undo the people's choice on October 30 by any means necessary. Many citizens believe that this fire was an act of economic sabotage. Many feel that the U.S.\$9 million damage may just be a start of efforts to unbalance the government with further and more far reaching acts of economic sabotage.

The public will be watching with keen and eager interest to hear the findings of the investigation requested by the Prime Minister into this all too suspicious fire at so sensitive a location.

The country would be well advised to observe a national alert and to vigilantly watch out for those who have absolute contempt for the people's collective judgement and still wish to impose their dogmatic ideological fantasies on this country in spite of the decisive defeat their cause experienced on October 30. It is well and good for Mr Manley to assure us that the PNP is a loyal opposition party but, frankly, has Mr Manley ever really spoken for or had any real control over the dogmatic fringe leftists who so badly damaged his party at the polls in the last elections?

As is now this country has had extraordinary levels of political violence represented in the high mortality levels for political causes that occurred in 1980. We have yet to experience terrorist inspired economic sabotage which can maim and disable a weak economy such as ours. We are vulnerable because we have not developed the tight security and intelligence systems necessary to deal with this problem.

There are people in high places in this country who would destroy it in the pursuit of power. That factor informed so many of the incredible acts of abuse and power that took place while the PNP was in power. In my view, these tendencies are even more dangerous from the vantage point of opposition.

Too few of us took the Brigadier's warning seriously and too many got carried away by the euphoria of the election victory and settled into a dangerous complacency with respect to the dangers posed to democratic freedoms by those elements who have no respect but rather contempt for the people's judgment.

GALLIMORE IN CANADA AIRS FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Toronto, Jan. 10: In a hope to establish better relations between Canada and Jamaica, Jamaican Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Neville Gallimore met with officials in Toronto earlier this week.

Gallimore stressed that good relations between Jamaica and the Government of Ontario in particular would probably mean "a better deal for Jamaicans living here."

The Minister was guest of honour at a luncheon Monday, hosted by Ontario Deputy Minister of Inter-governmental Affairs Don Stevenson.

Among those attending were Ozzie Murray Jamaican Consul-General in Toronto, Danny Powell, Consul and Trade Commissioner for Jamaica; Clare Westcott, executive assistant to Premier Bill Davis, Mavis Burke, an officer in the elementary division of the Ontario Ministry of Education and heritage language coordinator; and Joy Gordon, a secretary to the provincial committee for race relations.

In an interview following the luncheon, Gallimore said he hoped to see more Canadian tourism and investment dollars flow from their visit and others like it.

However, Gallimore said, the new Seaga Government in Jamaica will be concentrating on strengthening ties with CARICOM countries, Latin America and Mexico. In fact, Gallimore attributes this set of policies for his being chosen as Minister of State.

Dr Gallimore, a physician, went to medical school in Mexico for five years and Prime Minister Edward Seaga is depending on his ability to speak Spanish and his familiarity with the area, in planned discussions with the Latin American countries.

With the Caribbean countries, Gallimore said Jamaica was looking to better relations with each nation, including Cuba.

"The government of Jamaica has no quarrel with the government of Cuba itself," Gallimore said. "Good relations between the two countries just weren't possible while Ulises Estrada was the ambassador in our country. He insulted our people. So we asked for him to be withdrawn."

A new ambassador from Cuba is expected in the near future, Gallimore added, as well as one from the Dominican Republic.

As for Grenada, "a regime the Jamaican government cannot approve of," Gallimore said that sometimes a country with a bad record can be helped by other nations having association with that country.

Gallimore, who left for New York Monday evening, hasn't seen the last of Toronto.

The Minister's wife, Angela, lives in Metro and is working on her Doctorate in English at the University of Toronto. "Between the two of us there will be a lot of travelling," he said.

CSH: 10/25

PHONE COMPANY IN 'DESPERATE' FINANCIAL CONDITION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The Jamaica Telephone Company is in a "desperate financial situation" with arrears on telephone bills running at \$16 million, a spokesman for the company told the GLEANER yesterday.

Of the \$16 million arrears, the company has written off \$2 million as "uncollectable" and the spokesman said that the Jamaica Telephone Company was now being forced to take more drastic steps to see that outstanding bills are paid.

The company had now found itself in a "desperate financial situation" because of the large amount of money owed. With plans in the pipeline for the improvement of the service to the public, the company would have to move immediately to collect the \$14 million deemed collectable, the spokesman said.

Commenting on complaints from the public that they were paying for service they did not get, the spokesman said that it was true that while telephone lines were out of service, the consumers were still billed. But, as soon as the company's repair service section was informed, the consumer received a rebate.

The spokesman said it was essential that all lines out of order be reported. He said that some people had their lines repaired by friends and so did not report it to the company. As a result they did not receive a rebate. He added that the subscriber system was computerized and the company could not operate any other way without creating havoc with the system.

In a general comment on the company's operations during 1980, the spokesman told the GLEANER that service was "quite good" during the year. There were no major problems until Hurricane Allen, which threw thousands of lines out of service in August.

The lines were however, restored within a reasonable time. Operations were hampered shortly before the October 30 elections when workers began an industrial dispute that lasted for ten weeks, and left the service with a backlog of faulty lines, cables and instruments.

Over the Christmas season there was an increase in burglaries in which telephone lines were cut, particularly in the Stony Hill area of St Andrew, the spokesman said. But repair crews were out and making reasonable progress in restoring lines, the spokesman said.

TOURISM IN 'CHAOS,' COSTING PUBLIC \$1 MILLION A WEEK

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Jan 81 pp 1, 10

[Excerpts] The Tourist Industry is being subsidized by tax payers to the tune of almost \$1 million a week, according to Tourism Minister Anthony Abrahams.

The Minister stated this yesterday at the opening session of a tourist industry meeting at the New Kingston Hotel, Knutsford Boulevard. He spoke on the future of the tourist industry in Jamaica.

Mr Abrahams said that the industry today was in a state of financial chaos. Referring to losses incurred last year by Government-owned hotels (\$30 million) and the national airline, Air Jamaica, (\$20 million) he said that the industry was being subsidised by approximately \$1 million a week by taxpayers.

Not only Government-owned hotels but privately owned ones were reporting losses, he said. What the country had to realize, he said, was that the people in the industry had just emerged from a difficult period.

For tourism to succeed, he said, there was need for people acceptance. This did not mean a grudging acceptance but an acceptance at a level where the people understood that there are sacrifices to be made if the industry is to grow. There was also the need for awareness of the social costs of the industry. Tourism could not succeed, he added, unless there was understanding of government's policies regarding the industry, as well as the understanding of the potentials of the industry.

This acceptance would mean many things. The first was in the area of product development, as well as improved security for the tourist, the broadening of the attraction base, and improvement in the entertainment offered to tourists.

In addition there will be some institutional changes. These include the establishment of a permanent marketing unit, the appointment of a special team of advisers to the Ministry who would work along with the tourist board, assigning responsibility to the Minister of State for the development of tourism as a product, and the exploration of new investments for hotel development in Jamaica.

Hotels, he said, would also have to show greater understanding of the traditional plight of the hotel worker. He said that those hotels which would be approaching government for assistance would have to show how they are going to help the worker "tide over" the difficult period.

BAUXITE PRODUCERS SURPASS TARGETS IN 1981

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Aluminium partners of Jamaica (Alpart), Kaiser Bauxite Company and Alcan Jamaica Company have surpassed production targets for 1980, with Alpart recording its second best production year since it began operations here in 1969.

Kaiser had set itself a target of 4.6 million short tons weight of bauxite for 1980, but it produced and shipped 4.88 million, surpassing the target by 280,000 tons and its 1979 production figures by 80,000 tons.

A Kaiser spokesman has said that the year 1980 was a good production year with the company experiencing only one lost-time accident in which carpenter, Mr Joseph Brown, lost his life in a fall from the roof of the powerhouse on October 6, after 12 years with Kaiser.

Best Performance

The spokesman said the company has set a target of 4.9 million tons for this year.

Recording its best performance since 1974 and the second best in its history, Alpart produced 1,059,090 tons of alumina in 1980. The figure represents a 23 percent increase over that for 1979 and surpasses the 1980 target by 90,090 tons.

An Alpart spokesman said that the company was feeling very pleased with itself over the 1980 performance. He said the year was one of the company's best in terms of production, safety and all-round performance. After producing 1,074,000 in 1974, production figures had fallen. Nineteen eighty was designated the year for "proving Alpart" and it had been done with much success, the spokesman said.

The target for this year is 1.15 million tons, he added.

Alcan Jamaica Company had an alumina production last year of 1,025,949 metric tonnes, compared to 827,653 metric tonnes in 1979, an increase of over 9 per cent. Alcan had set itself a target of 1,025,000 metric tonnes.

Complete figures for the Reynolds Jamaica Mines output were not available, but the production for the first three quarters of 1980 was given at 2,065,807 metric tonnes of bauxite. The production for the full calendar year of 1979 was 2,753,801 tonnes.

Alumina production at Alcoa fell marginally during last year, when it stood at 467,936 metric tonnes, compared to 475,621 metric tonnes in 1979.

CSU: 3025

SABOTAGE SUSPECTED IN U.S.\$9 MILLION OIL TANK FIRE

Firefighting Cooperation

Kingston THE SUNDAY CLEANER in English 11 Jan 81 pp 1, 3

[Text] Jamaica's most devastating fire in terms of property damage raged out of control at the Montego Bay Esso oil storage facilities for most of yesterday, leaving an estimated damage of more than \$15 million (US\$9 million).

The fire, suspected to be the work of saboteurs, started about 6 a.m. and became so intense that by mid-morning it was obvious that the local fire-fighting service did not have the equipment capability to cope. The Prime Minister, Mr Edward Seaga, requested assistance from the United States Government.

The request brought assistance from the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in the form of a Fire Marshal and Assistant Fire Marshal, with 20 fifty-five gallon drums of foam and 8,000 lb of fire-fighting equipment including "light water."

Over 250 fire-fighters were involved in fighting the blaze.

Bung Removed

According to reports from Mr Howard Powell, Terminal Supervisor of Esso Freeport, around 11.45 p.m. it was reported to him that a two-inch bung had been removed from one of the storage tanks and gas was flowing out at a rate of about 250 gallons per minute saturating the area.

Attempts were made by the workers to replace the bung by pouring water into the tank to cause the gas to float on top of the water above the level of the bung. Assistance was also sought from the Esso headquarters in Kingston.

An Esso team, coming to the scene in a helicopter was halted because of bad weather conditions in the western area, while the workers continued their efforts to replace the bung.

Explosion

Mr Powell said that while working on the bung, an explosion was heard about 150 yards away, and almost immediately the heat became so intense that the workers had to flee.

Three units of the Montego Bay Fire Brigade were summoned by about 6.00 a.m., and when it became obvious that they could not cope with the worsening situation, assistance was sought from Fire Brigade stations in Trelawny, Hanover, and the Sangster Airport Fire Protection Service.

Assistance was also sought from Kingston and a team of firefighters responded under the command of Mr Alan Ridgeway, head of the KSAC Fire Brigade.

It was when the fire showed no signs of being brought under control around noon that an appeal was made to the United States Government through the U.S. Ambassador, Mr Loren Lawrence for assistance.

When the U.S. team arrived from Guantanamo Bay, they immediately joined their Jamaican colleagues in the continuing effort to bring the fire under control. By night fall, four of the oil storage units had been destroyed. The loss amounted to about 27,000 barrels of premium gasoline, 80,000 barrels of kerosene and 52,000 barrels of diesel fuel.

At press time, the fire was still raging. An assessment of the situation indicated that it might take up to three days to completely put out the fire.

There was still grave concern late last night that the fire might spread to the nearby Shell Company's storage facilities which up to then were untouched.

With virtually all of the Esso Supply capability in Montego Bay wiped out, arrangements have already been set in motion to take emergency supplies to the Western regions. Prime Minister, Edward Seaga announced that fuel haulage contractors and tanker drivers had been mobilized to start supplying the areas, and that this would continue for as long as necessary.

Seaga on Security

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 11 Jan 81 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Prime Minister, the Hon. Edward Seaga; the Minister of National Security, the Hon. Winston Spaulding; and other government officials were early on the scene in Montego Bay yesterday when it had become obvious that Jamaica's most devastating and persistent fire was underway.

Also on the scene of the disaster was the United States Ambassador, Mr Loren Lawrence, who had earlier responded to a Government of Jamaica request to the U.S. Government for assistance to fight the fire.

But they were not the only ones on the scene. As news of the fire spread thousands of people gathered to watch the spectacle.

They watched the progress of the fire from many vantage points but few ventured beyond a "respectable distance" from the inferno, knowing the destructive capability of what was feeding the flames.

Before leaving for the scene yesterday, Mr Seaga issued a statement in which he announced that security at all of the country's fuel installations were to be stepped up; arrangements were being made to mobilize emergency fuel supply for the western region; and that an operational centre had been established at Jamaica House.

Mr Seaga said that the operational centre was being manned by representatives from Esso, Shell, Petrojam, and the Ministry of Mining and Energy.

"I want to assure the nation at this time that while we are faced with a dangerous situation, there is no need for panic," Mr Seaga said. "I am assured that there are adequate supplies of fuel in the island, and that the normal flow to the public will not be interrupted."

"In fact arrangements are now taking place with the haulage contractors and tanker drivers to haul fuel to Montego Bay, and to continue to do so as long as is necessary."

He said that he had instructed that investigations into the particular incidence of access to the installation by unauthorized persons be carried out.

Continuing Blaze

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Jan 81 pp 1, 11

[Text] Montego Bay: Jan. 11 At 5.30 p.m. today the fire at the Montego Freeport Esso installation was still highly dangerous. It has already destroyed tank number 5 with 12,500 barrels of premium gasoline, or 437,500 gallons, as a barrel is approximately 35 gallons; and tank number 3 with 30,000 barrels or 1.005 million gallons of premium gas. And it had all but destroyed tank number 2 with kerosene.

As I looked at the angry, hungry fire, tank number 4 with 27,000 barrels of kerosene (jet fuel) was burning, dangerously poised to threaten Esso's number one tank and the Shell installation nearby.

All the efforts of the firemen today have been aimed at saving tank number one, not more than ten feet away from the burning number four tank. The technique has been to keep the tank cool by pouring incessantly thousands of gallons of water on it, while praying that the wind would keep the flame blowing south and not west onto tank number 1.

The five Esso tanks are to the north of the four Shell tanks on the Montego Freeport development. Tank number 5 where the leak of fuel began is the eastern-most tank. On Friday night, the Security guard at Esso discovered that a bung had been removed and that premium gas was escaping rapidly. It is reported that he saw a man running away.

The local manager and workmen tried for six hours to stem the flow of gas but without success. Not far from the tank is a stream and not far from the stream are some shanty huts. Near dawn on Saturday an explosion took place some 75 yards away from tank number 5 and the fire raced along the stream and into the tank. The wind did the rest as it took the flames to number 4, 3 and 2 tanks.

Tanks number 4 and 2 contained kerosene, whereas tank number 5 and tank number 1 had premium gas which burned rapidly. The wind saved tank number 1 to the west of the others, and which contained 52,000 barrels of diesel fuel (1.38 million gallons).

Tank number 5 tonight looks like a huge, crushed concertina, and tank number 3 is like a Henry Miller piece of sculpture. Tank number 4 is about to collapse with the fire sending dark, grey furious, billowing smoke and hungry flames into the air, with the wind taking them first to the south, then to the west ominously close to tank number 1 containing the diesel fuel.

Tank number 2 with kerosene had burned on Saturday, but was only half consumed before the fire was brought under control by water, foam and a change in the direction of the wind.

If fortune smiles on the firemen from St James and the other parishes, and on Mr Vernon Meikle, the Esso Manager and his staff who have been present continuously since Saturday, then tank number 1 with the diesel, and tank number 2 with half of its contents of kerosene will be saved.

But fortune was absent this morning when one of the two specially equipped fire trucks from the Montego Bay airport became overheated and burned out. Five firemen were hurt and hospitalised.

The feeling here is strong that the pulling of the bung on Friday night may be either the work of a thief attempting to steal petrol or the work of a saboteur. But the feeling is even stronger that the fire may have been caused by an explosive device used by saboteurs.

Byron Lee

At 8 p.m. today Montegoians can be seen on all the streets surrounding the Yachtport, looking at the fiery spectacle which can be seen hundreds of yards away. Guests at the Seawind Hotel, 400 yards away have not been affected by the fire, and in a football field not 200 yards away from the fire an exciting football match has just ended.

Mr Richard Powell, supervisor of the Esso Terminal, Montego Bay told the press on Saturday, that he believe the installation was deliberately set on fire.

Asked by the news men to substantiate his statement Mr Powell explained that a hatch was removed from the tank and gas was flowing at the rate of 280 gallons per minute flooding the area and causing a vapour. However, there was no empty container on the compound. This indicated that the person or persons had not

come to steal petrol, he also said that the weather was cool at that time of the morning and this would further indicate that someone had deliberately set the fire.

He pointed out that the fire started outside the compound about 150 yards from the plant. Some of the gas had flowed to this area.

Mr Powell added that during the previous day there were reports that Esso would be burnt down.

Prime Minister Seaga, who visited the scene said that the police were carrying out investigations into the cause of the fire. API

Editorial Comment

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Jan 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Disastrous Fire"]

[Text] The disastrous fire at the Esso Installation in Montego Bay must bring home to every Jamaican how vulnerable is our country. For it is difficult to believe that the fire could have been caused by mere accident.

Reports from the police suggest that there was tampering at the installation which led to the escape of oil at a rapid rate, so rapid that between midnight on Friday and 6 a.m. on Saturday, all attempts to stem the flow were of no avail. An explosion occurred 75 yards away from one of the tanks, setting off the fire which raged for hours and hours.

Despite the courage of the local fire fighters and the police the plain fact was that we had neither the equipment nor the material to extinguish such a fire. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the U.S. Government whose Ambassador acted with expedition, at our Government's request, to get aid from Guantanamo Bay.

Millions of dollars have been lost in this disaster, but the lessons learned can be of use for the future. The first lesson is that valuable essential installations should have been given maximum protection from the time of their establishment. It should not have been possible for anyone with a vicious intent to gain entry to an essential installation. That Prime Minister Seaga has instructed that such protection should be given now, underlines our view that this should have been the normal precaution taken.

The second lesson is that the society should have been on the alert after the warning given by the JDF Chief of Staff Brigadier Robert Neish, in Montego Bay, just four weeks ago that the country was threatened by economic sabotage. The third lesson is that we should never underrate the bond of friendship that exists between this country and our neighbours to the North. Never have U.S.A. interests let us down in times of distress and this recent disaster has seen yet another example of their willingness to assist us.

There is a fourth lesson if in fact there was sabotage--it is that as a nation we must not delude ourselves that we are still in the era of a two-party system played according to the rules. For there are other forces which are not committed to a two-party democracy, and to whom the ends justify the means--and the ends for them is domination and control of the society.

We express our sorrow at the fire and the losses to the Esso interest, and command and thank all those who worked so bravely to bring the fire under control, and whether from Jamaica or from the U.S.A.

The Prime Minister's appeal to the nation that there should be no panic because of this fire should be heeded. There need be no panic buying of petrol or kerosene, for this would add the fuel of disorder and chaos to the fire of the disaster itself.

Final Damage Total

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Damage put at \$12M; probe underway.

After more than 48 hours of fury and destruction, the fire at the Esso oil storage tank farm in Montego Bay, was put out yesterday, leaving behind losses estimated about \$12 million.

The site of the devastated storage complex has been closed to the public, while a team of investigators move in to try to determine the circumstances under which the blaze originated. The team is comprised of representatives of the oil companies, the Security Forces and technical experts.

More than 250 Jamaican and United States firemen and fire experts wrestled with the giant fire, using special equipment and materials supplied through the U.S. government, before it was finally brought under control yesterday morning at about 7 o'clock.

The only human casualties so far, have been four firemen and a civilian who were injured on Sunday when an airport fire unit became overheated from the fire and burnt out.

Product Losses

Commenting on the situation yesterday, the general manager of Esso, Mr Vernon McKillop, said the total loss was not yet assessed. However, it was certain that there was product losses of about US\$5 million.

He said the loss in the physical structures could not yet be fully assessed, but was expected to be at least US\$1.5 million.

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Two tanks with premium gasoline, with a total of 42,500 barrels, were totally destroyed; one tank with 27,500 barrels of kerosene or jet fuel was totally destroyed; one tank with 52,500 barrels of kerosene was partly destroyed; though it was too early to say how much; and one tank, with 52,500 barrels of diesel fuel had been saved.

Mr Meikle said it was not yet known how long the rehabilitation and restoration process would take, as it will take several days to assess fully the situation, but everything was being done to keep the western market supplied in the meantime.

The giant fire not only dominated local interest for three days but was prominently carried in news reports in Europe and North America.

Yesterday firemen under the command of Superintendent Phillip McCaine in charge of the St James Fire Brigade were still on the scene carrying out cooling-down operations. The site has been cleared of unauthorized persons as investigations as to how the fire started have begun. Montego Bay police, aided by forensic experts started their investigations and Esso personnel as well as firemen are assisting.

Speaking to the GLEANER Superintendent McCaine attributed the success of the fire-fighting operations to the concerted effort of members of the fire service island-wide. He said he did not believe that there would be any reason for them to tarry on the scene later than yesterday evening.

Earlier firemen had said that the blaze would take over three days to control but instead it was controlled 48 hours after it started.

Superintendent McCaine said the concentration would now be on efforts to determine how the fire started. The fire fighting teams owed much also to the Airport fire units, also the U.S. equipment and advice, and to the Security Forces.

Military and police guards have been posted at petroleum facilities throughout the island since Saturday when the island's worst fire erupted at the Esso tank farm in Montego Bay.

Meanwhile the Minister of Local Government, the Hon. Parnell Charles, yesterday sent a letter to firemen expressing the government's appreciation for their hard work in fire.

A news release from the Ministry said he would be meeting this week with the Fire Chiefs Alan Ridgeway of Kingston and Phillip McKain of St James, under whose supervision the men worked, to work out an appropriate way of expressing thanks to the men on behalf of the people of Jamaica.

Supplies Being Sent to Western Region

The Minister of State for Mining and Energy the Hon. Basil Buck, said yesterday that arrangements have been made by the Esso Refinery and the marketing companies for supplies of petroleum to be delivered to the western and central regions of the island, the API reports. These regions are normally supplied from the Esso and Shell installations at the Montego Bay Freeport.

According to Mr Buck, the special operations which began on Saturday are going smoothly and are expected to continue until alternative arrangements can be completed.

The fire started at the Esso installation early Saturday morning, as a result of the ignition of a flammable product some distance from tanks containing kerosene and premium gasoline.

Another tank containing 52,500 barrels of dual-purpose kerosene was partly destroyed. The volume loss in this tank has not yet been fully determined. However, this product cannot now be used as turbo fuel and will have to be returned to the refinery for downgrading to diesel oil.

The Foreign Exchange cost relating to these losses is not as high as was originally estimated when the entire Esso installation was threatened. The revised estimate of the cost of products lost is now approximately US\$5 million.

Mr Buck said that on behalf of the Government he wished to express his sincere gratitude to the courageous firemen and the members of the Security Forces who played a major role in containing the fire. "To those officers of the fire services who were unfortunately injured in the line of duty, the Government expresses its sympathy and wishes them a speedy recovery," he added.

Special thanks is also being expressed to the United States Government for its timely response to the urgent request from the Government. This response contributed significantly to the extinguishing of the fire which has originally been expected to burn for three to four days, the API said.

Commission Probe

[Excerpt] THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpt] Government has decided to appoint a one-man commission of enquiry into the fire which destroyed the Esso installation at the Montego Bay Freeport over last week-end, causing a final estimated loss at J\$13 million in petroleum products and J\$2.6 million in plant and equipment, totalling J\$15.6 million.

The only commissioner is Mr Ashton Wright, attorney-at-law, and a former Permanent Secretary, according to a news release from the office of the Prime Minister yesterday.

The terms of reference of the Commission are:

--"to examine the causes and extent of the fire commencing on the 10th January, 1981 which destroyed property at the Esso installation;

--to assess the implications of the fire for National Security and foreign exchange;

--to examine safety and security standards and procedures of oil companies operating in the island and to determine whether these standards and procedures are adequate and are being maintained;

--to recommend, if necessary, amendments to the above standards and procedures, regarding standards of safety and security;

--to recommend a set of procedures to be adopted in cases of similar emergency;

--to make a comprehensive report on all these matters."

The Commission will be assisted by two British fire experts whose services have been made available through the United Kingdom Government.

They are Mr Ken Jones, who assisted the police in the investigations in the Eventide Home fire last year, and Mr Roy Cooke, who was in charge of the inquiry in an explosion and fire which occurred at a petrochemical plant in Lincolnshire in 1974.

The two men have frequently worked together as a team and are very highly experienced, the release said.

They were scheduled to have arrived in Jamaica yesterday and will hold discussions with the Criminal Investigation Branch of the Police Force today.

CSO: 3025

SHEARER GIVES FIRST MAJOR POLICY TALK TO CARICOM

Kinston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jan 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] An assurance that the Jamaica Labour Party Government had "returned to the front of the stage with new energy and political will which we intend to apply to the problems of CARICOM," was given by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, to the CARICOM's Council of Ministers at the opening of their 18th Meeting, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, New Kingston yesterday.

Mr Shearer, who was delivering his first major policy speech to the CARICOM Council of Ministers since assuming office in November, told delegates that the JLP did not abandon its interest in the CARICOM while in Opposition.

Stating that: "An economically strong and stable region is important to the trading and other relationships in which we are all engaged," Mr Shearer said that in that regard, "there is a certain co-incidence in our national interests." He told delegates:

"My Government believes firmly in the concept of regional and subregional cooperation. The Caribbean is a natural area of interest for Jamaica, for providing the foundations for building that cooperation and unity without which the efforts of developing countries on our own behalf will be fruitless. It is also an area with some of our most important trading partners. CARICOM's record of fostering cooperation among our 12 countries, while not uniformly successful, is none the less cause for hope, if for no other reason than that CARICOM still exists, despite the enormous economic and political pressures it has faced, and despite being routinely eulogised from several quarters over the past years."

Mr Shearer, who was earlier elected chairman of the Council Meeting, said most members of the CARICOM faced severe balance of payment problems which derive to a considerable degree from a substantial increase in the cost of oil, on which they depended heavily, for the functioning of their economies.

"In this connection," he said, "I am sure I speak for all Member States when I express appreciation for the most important measure that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has undertaken through its oil facility established in June 1980, to relieve its partners in CARICOM of some of the pressures of the continuously increasing oil prices."

The CARICOM involvement had been of great benefit to all its members, especially over the recent difficult past, he said, adding that, against a background of severe economic crisis, the logic of today's world compelled developing countries to cooperate and unite in their efforts to survive in a hostile world.

Defining "some of the premises upon which the foreign relations of the new Government of Jamaica, will be based," the Deputy Prime Minister said Jamaica would continue at the United Nations and elsewhere, to maintain its full solidarity with other Third World countries. Jamaica was committed to the Third World and to those issues which lie at the heart of that cause, he said, recalling that this country joined the Non-Aligned Movement in 1969, while the JLP was in office.

So far as the Non-Aligned Movement was concerned, "Jamaica will pursue a policy of genuine nonalignment, and it is on this basis that we will assist in seeking solutions to the problems confronting the Movement."

"The JLP Government would also continue its support and active engagement in the work of the Group of 77 which would remain a major foreign policy preoccupation of this Government," he said and went on to add:

"We intend to play a positive role in the struggle for better terms of trade, for reform of the international economic system, and for human rights. We will be in the forefront of those determined to advance the North-South Dialogue, and over the next few days we will have the opportunity to discuss aspects of this issue among ourselves and in dialogue with Canada."

In concluding, Mr Shearer recalled that the JLP, when it previously formed the Government of Jamaica, had been intimately involved in the processes which led to the setting up of what was then CARIFTA. "We did not abandon our interest while in Opposition, and have returned to the front of the stage with new energy and political will which we intend to apply to the problems of CARICOM."

In that spirit, he welcomed the delegates to Jamaica on behalf of the people and Government of Jamaica. He extended a special welcome to the head of the Dominican delegation, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Eugenia Charles, "whose presence enhances our gathering not only by virtue of her charm and wisdom, but also with the authority of her pre-eminent status in her own country." Miss Charles is the sole head of Government attending the meeting.

Mr Shearer was introduced by the Secretary-General, Dr Kurlough King.

Making a statement on behalf of the Most Developed Countries (MDCs) of the region, was the Hon. Bernard St John, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade of Barbados; and, on behalf of the Less Developed Countries (LDCs), Miss Charles spoke.

The meeting went into business session after the formal opening.

TOURISM IMPROVEMENTS TO FOCUS ON BRITISH VISITORS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by L. C. Francis: "Jamaica Woos UK Tourists"]

[Text] London, Jan. 14: Jamaica hopes to increase the number of tourists from Britain from the 10,324 who visited in 1980 to 50,000 by the end of 1983.

This was disclosed at a news conference here this morning by the Hon. Dr. Marco Brown, Jamaica's Minister of State for Tourism who was outlining his Government's plan to improve the tourist industry.

He also gave an outline of the October 30 election in Jamaica and information on Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

Dr Brown said the government supported private enterprise but at the same time it believed that areas such as public utilities should be owned and controlled by government.

The government believed, he said, in equal rights and justice in Jamaica and the freedom of the press and radio had come under severe abuse during the period that the last Government was in office.

Special reference was made by the Minister of State to the independence of the GLEANER newspaper which, he said gave a fair view of things to the country although the newspaper had been subjected to much pressure and abuse.

It was the aim of the Tourism Minister to get 40 per cent of the country's foreign exchange revenue from tourism. An increase of the number of visitors from the UK in 1980 over the 1979 was aimed at and to achieve this the tourist office in London would be upgraded. [as published]

In 1980 a total of 10,324 visitors from the UK went to Jamaica and this is expected to increase to around 15,000 in 1981 while the projected figure for 1983 is 50,000.

With current visitors to Jamaica running at 600,000 annually, the ministry is working toward one million visitors by 1983.

In the question-and-answer period which followed Dr Brown's address, it was stated that the government-owned hotels overall were losing money. Plans are afoot to lease or sell some of the hotels to private enterprises and the negotiations are in progress for 50 percent of these hotels.

Air fares, which play an important part in the number of visitors from Europe, is under review, the Minister said. The "meet-the-people" programme is to be expanded and a general education programme is to be launched.

Mr John Gentles, Director of Tourism, said Jamaicans were aware of the importance of the industry to the country as a whole. At present, with some 18,000 Jamaicans employed directly in the industry, nearly 250,000 people are involved in one way or the other.

The news conference attracted reporters from all the national and travel newspapers and the electronic media.

CSO: 3025

CANE GROWERS CALL FOR GOVERNMENT PROBE OF CO-OP COUNCIL

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Jan 81 pp 7, 12

[Article by Ivorall Davis: "Astil Sangster Promises Action in Interest of Sugar Industry"]

[Text] Over 300 cane farmers who are members of the Bernard Lodge Sugar Company's area of the United Sugar Workers Co-operative Council flayed the Council and its top officers on Wednesday at a meeting with Mr Astil Sangster, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture. They demanded in uncompromising language that the Council and its operations be probed and restructured.

Responding to the representations Mr Sangster, who said that their complaints were valid and sympathetic to his ears, promised that the whole situation would be looked into, then cautioned: "When restructuring starts remember you asked me to do it!" There were loud responses: "Yes Sir! Yes Sir!, Now, Now, Sir!"

The meeting followed a demonstration at the factory on the previous day when hundreds of sugar workers blocked the entrance to the factory and demanded that senior members of the co-op be removed from office or the crop would not start at Bernard Lodge.

Farmers' Case

At the start of the meeting, presided over by Sugar Industry Chairman Noel Rennie, Mr Rupert Brown of the Salt Pond Co-op stated the case for the majority of the co-operators. He said that for the first two years following the establishment of the Cooperative, farmers operating under project managers made profits. In the third year the USWCC took over operations.

After the crop was completed "and up until now we can't know whether we are up or we are down...and from that, four years up to now there is nothing to show. No document to show whether we have made a profit or not."

Speaking on the situation of the farms Mr Brown said: "The farms are gone down in holes, in ruin, under the hands of all who have been managing under the SWCC. The cultivation is wrecked. Completely wrecked! The whole industry would cry shame of Salt Pond if they should see it now.... ruined under the hands of the SWCC."

He then charged that they had to pay for water but could get no water to irrigate their canes, and canes that have been planted have been burnt to the ground for lack of water. "All I can say to you, Sir at this moment is: "If it is not changed to bring progress it is just as well the factory 'dump' for there will be no cane in the next two years.

"The money that cane earns from Bernard Lodge we do not know where it is going for it is not spent on the farm." He then made the plea: "Search them, Sir, Probe them. Probe them now!"

A farmer, Mr Wright from the Half-Way-Tree farm, said that the people of Half Way Tree wanted their money back. He was followed by Mr Baker of the March Pen farm who said that the March Pen people did not want their money back because they realized that the Co-op could not operate without money. But that they wanted conditions to be improved. Mr Frank Edwards of Reid's Pen said that they could not get a proper understanding of what was happening, and for over two years they were not getting any water from the Rio Cobre into Reid's Pen. They preferred to operate independently of the Co-op as they have always grown cane and they had the ability to grow cane.

Needed Change

BITU delegate, Mr Allen said he represented 150 members of the Half Way Tree Co-op who had delegated him to say that they needed a change of senior members of the Co-op staff and if they did not get the change the members of the Co-op would not work.

Replying to the representations Mr Sangster said that he considered the complaints valid. They were sympathetic to his ears. He took note of the strong statements that they had made that they were not satisfied how the USWCC operates and that they did not think it was operating in their best interest and that they wanted to see changes in the Co-op. He told them that it was their responsibility as members of the Co-op to see that meetings were called and held regularly so that they could air their grievances.

\$40M. Debt

Mr Sangster then advised that money in the Co-op represented equity and if they took out their money they would have no voice in the Co-op. He said that the Co-operative was now indebted to the extent of over \$40 million and that if they took out their \$4.7 million then the debt of the Co-op would be closer to \$45 million.

He then said Government, although prepared to support the Co-operative and try to make it run as smoothly as possible, was not prepared to dump money into anything that is not being run properly.

"If you are asking the Government to put another \$6 million into this thing..we will have to go and restructure the thing..." Shouts of "A dat we want! Right now!" He then said that the Government had an open mind about the matter and wanted to see the industry back to where it was and if the Co-op needs to be restructured "so that we can produce more cane as we used to then we are going to have it restructured." He then declared: "If you have any bad eggs in it that have to be weeded out, weed them out."

BRIEFS

INFORMATION, CULTURE APPOINTMENTS--Mr Carey Robinson, former JBC General Manager and former Information Officer in the Jamaican Embassy in Washington has been appointed Director of Information, Art and Culture in the Office of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is Minister of Information, Art & Culture and is assisted in this area by Minister of State Mr Ed Bartlett. The GLEANER understands that other top appointments are Head of the Division of Arts & Culture Miss Olive Lewin, well-known researcher in folk music, and leader of the Jamaica Folk Singers; and Head of Information, Dr Heather Royes who holds a Ph.D. in communication. The GLEANER understands that Mr Robinson was appointed on December 1, 1980 and that Miss Lewin and Dr Royes took up their appointments on January 2, 1981. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Jan 81 p 2]

BAUXITE TALKS--The first round of discussions on the proposed US \$350 million expansion programme for the Alcoa plant in Clarendon ended in Kingston on Tuesday with local parties reporting progress in the talks. A bauxite source said on Tuesday that the discussions between Alcoa, the Jamaica Bauxite Mining Limited and a group of three Norwegian aluminum producing companies, were centre on financing of the expansion programme, and had established a framework for further talks scheduled for February. Under the proposed expansion programme, Alcoa would double its output to 1.1 million tons of bauxite at a cost of US\$350 million. The Kingston discussions began on Monday. The source said that no commitments or agreements were made at the meeting but that progress has been made. The Jamaica Bauxite Mining Limited is being represented at the talks by managing director, Dr Van Lawrence. Alcoa is represented by the managing director of the Jamaica operations, Mr A. C. Roemhill, and a team of officials from the parent company in Pittsburg, United States, headed by Mr R. D. Hornbeck, general manager, Raw Materials and Alumina. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Jan 81 p 2]

SWEDISH AID--Jamaica and Sweden yesterday signed an agreement in which Sweden will make a grant of 4 million kroners (\$1.7 million) to provide financial assistance to the agricultural sector and for the importation of basic food-stuffs. Signing on behalf of the Jamaican Government at a brief ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was the Minister of State in the Ministry, Dr Neville Gullimore. The Swedish non-resident Ambassador to Jamaica, Mr Andrs Sandstrom, signed on behalf of his country. Mr Sandstrom, who resides in Havana, stopped off in Jamaica en route to Sweden. He had talks with members of the new

administration. The 4 million kroners is part of a 10-million-kroners grant from Sweden initiated by the previous government to assist with the country's balance-of-payments deficits and to be used in the agricultural sector in the wake of the devastation by Hurricane Allen. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Jan 81 p 1]

SWEDISH HURRICANE GRANT--Jamaica is to receive a grant of 4 million Swedish kroners (J\$1.6 million), a further contribution from the government of Sweden, to be used for emergency relief programmes resulting from the effects of Hurricane Allen which struck in August last year. An earlier gift of 1 million kroners was made to Jamaica by Sweden last year shortly after the devastating Hurricane Allen which passed 35 miles the northeast coast in August had left millions of dollars in damage on the island. [as published] News of the gift was disclosed by Sweden's Cuba-based Ambassador Andres Sandstrom during a courtesy call on Jamaica's Minister of Social Security, the Hon. Neville Lewis on Tuesday this week, the Agency for Public Information reported. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Jan 81 p 16]

CS0: 3025

PPS STRATEGY, TACTICS DISCUSSED

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 27 Jan 81 pp 7-A, 8-A

[Commentary by Jorge Cruickshank Garcia]

[Text] The Popular Socialist Party (PPS) has defined itself as an independent revolutionary party, guided by the philosophy of the working class (Marxist-Leninism). In its national struggle, it has taken into consideration the fact that it is operating in a semicolonial country that has been seriously affected by U.S. imperialism, and that our country is the product of the first popular, antifascist democratic and anti-imperialist revolution of this century.

In its political actions, the PPS bears in mind not only the correlation of national forces, but also that of international political forces. It does not forget that the basic contradiction of our time is the one between developing socialism and decadent imperialism.

Hence the strategy and tactics of the democratic, patriotic and anti-imperialist front in national struggles. The strategic line is derived from our historical experience, and from the rich experience of the struggles of the world's people and revolutionary forces.

Now it is more important than ever that we put our strategy and tactics into practice, make them valid, and convince all progressive, anti-imperialist and revolutionary forces that this is the only way to combat the strong internal and external pressures that are trying to push us toward a regressive, rightist solution to the problem of the presidential succession.

The Popular Socialist Party has opposed the appeal by the Communist Party and its small allies to put up a leftist candidate. This attitude stems from an incorrect, non-Marxist analysis of the national situation and of the conduct that should be observed by a revolutionary party. As Lenin said, "In the interest of the revolution, our ideal can in no way consist of a fusion of all parties, movements and factions in a revolutionary chaos." That is, to a great extent, what the comrades of the Mexican Communist Party (PCM) are trying to accomplish: to unite a whole group of adventurers, ranging from Trotskyites to elements who have nothing to do with the revolutionary cause of the working class, in a coalition called the "Left," to deal with the presidential succession problem. We do not feel that this contributes to the national effort to maintain our sovereignty in view of the serious dangers that are facing us, such as the threats of imperialism and its national agents.

We must remember that, according to Leninist theory, "The political army of the revolution is made up of the representatives of all social strata interested in democratic and social transformations. Its composition is determined by the nature of the revolution, the tasks that confront it at one historical period or another, the country's level of development and other specific circumstances."

Lenin himself proved that "in a situation of a popular democratic upsurge, the party's refusal to participate in political coalitions and its attempts to engage in battle with the sole support of its own forces, meeting the rigorously classist demands of the proletariat, mean renouncing revolutionary activity in favor of opportunist positions, and losing sight of the political result." Even Vladimir Ilich harshly criticized sectarians who asserted that "the proletarian party does not have to be especially active in the general democratic struggle, whose tasks should be resolved by the bourgeois and petite bourgeois movements. Similar postulates that are put forth under the pretext of preserving the independence of the working class party, in practice lead the party to become an exclusive organization and lose its importance in political life."

The strategic and tactical line that we propose, which has been so aggressively criticized by the right, the ultraleft and imperialism, has its roots and essence in Leninism. It would be stupid to propose right now the division of the democratic, patriotic and anti-imperialist movement under the pretext of presenting a leftist candidate that would be playing into the hands of Yankee imperialism, the national right and the counterrevolution, enabling these forces to achieve their objectives in national political conflicts. Under the present historical conditions, revolutionary parties, principally those which claim to be guided by the theory of the working class, should accentuate their general democratic struggle and not leave everything up to the national bourgeoisie and petite bourgeoisie because of a hesitant attitude.

The Popular Socialist Party, today more than ever, insists on the validity of the strategy and tactics of the democratic, patriotic and anti-imperialist front. During these difficult times for the nation, this is the path that can lead us to our consolidation as an independent republic, a popular and democratic country, and a nation that has resolved to progress along the road of history.

Selfish, arrogant and selfish attitudes have no place here. No national political force that desires Mexico's independent progress can act on its own if it ignores the results. The dangers are so obvious and so serious, that we should get aside our vain, insubstantial, paranoid and self-centered positions and demand a righteous harmony with the forces that, regardless of their differences, about the future, are ready to follow the path that all Mexicans must follow to avoid dependence and submission.

This is the historic moment for us to carry out with clarity and honesty all the steps that are necessary to form a political coalition that will unite all Mexicans and defend the independence of their homeland and the social progress of their people. If this is not understood, we will obviously be departing from erroneous positions, and will yield counterproductive results that will not serve the interests of the revolution and the consolidation of a sovereign nation.

Only a front thus constituted--the democratic, patriotic and anti-imperialist front--that agrees to a common program, can form the basis of a victorious

campaign with a candidate who represents the higher interests of our people, convinced that the solution for Mexico lies in progress with independence, permanent democratic development, and an invariable policy that will lead to higher levels of material and spiritual life for the masses.

Regarding national politics, we must exert pressure to further our demand for the formation of a government of national democracy, in view of the serious pressures and threats that confront us; we must constitute a national democratic government, a government made up of the best political forces, the workers, the progressive intellectuals, the peasants, the sectors of the nationalist industrial bourgeoisie, and the representatives of the revolutionary and democratic parties. Using this as a foundation, we will create the conditions to strengthen the common front that will successfully combat the aggressions of imperialism and the economic and political forces that serve imperialism within this country. In this manner we will also be able to overcome the severe dangers that in this presidential succession will prove to be the most complex of the last four decades, due to the invincible pressures of U.S. imperialism, and that country's thirst to dominate Mexico's oil industry and natural resources for the benefit of the U.S. economy and the development of the great military industrial complex.

This is no time to pussyfoot around or play revolutionary games. It is a time to take a clear stand to save Mexico.

8926

CSO: 3010

JLP MAKES FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT IN TAMPICO

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 22 Jan 81 p 6

[Text] Tampico, Tamaulipas, 21 January--"I carry with me the principles and ideals of my Mexico. We are going to identify ourselves with the great, numerous people who are also Indians," stated President Jose Lopez Portillo moments before leaving for India on an official visit.

The Mexican leader, amid the cheers of the Tamaulipans who came to the Francisco Javier Mina International Airport to see him off, said that for the second time he had the honor of saying good by to all Mexicans and leaving the sacred ground of our nation from beautiful Tampico.

Thousands of people from different walks of life--oil workers, students and the general public--began to arrive at the airport early in the morning. They carried small flags, whistles, posters, confetti and a great enthusiasm to send the Mexican president on his way.

At 1445 hours Lopez Portillo began to bid farewell to all the members of his cabinet and the governors of the 31 federative entities. Then he was given the honors corresponding to his rank, while a 21-gun salute was fired.

In his message to the Mexican people, he stated: "We are going to fulfill the goals of our international policy on a different kind of trip. We are going to honor a great country that has honored us by inviting us to be the only chief of state to witness its national independence celebration. They mark this occasion with special fervor, because they, who are Indians just as we are, liberated themselves from imperialist forces just as we did."

Later he commented, "They chose a different route that was deeply related to their philosophy and their system, their style and concept of life: They did not resist violence; they did not resist evil. Thus, without resisting evil, they conquered it. The evil was imperialism; the good was the independence that they are now celebrating, an event to which we have been honorably invited as representatives of the people of Mexico."

He also said that he will "delve into our active international policy in order to establish a dialog with a peaceful nation that belongs to the same world as we do, a developing country that clearly reflects the inequalities of this world. We could say that this dialog is with ourselves."

"We are going to strengthen the North-South dialog, to prepare for the talks that may be held between the North and the South in our own country; to investigate the political will of representative nations, for the purpose of learning to what extent we are willing to reorganize the world economy and thus progress along the road of justice, equality, and respect for world peace, a peace that is now so severely threatened."

The Mexican president's message was greeted by the audience with an ovation. Later, amid cheers and applause, the president headed toward the steps of the presidential plane, whence he saluted the nation.

Accompanying President Lopez Portillo aboard Quetzalcoatl I were Jose Ramon Lopez Portillo, Paulina Lopez Portillo, Rafael Tovar, Pascual Ortiz Rubio, Joaquin Gamboa Pascoe, Luis M. Farias, Agustin Tellez Cruces, Jorge Castaneda, Gen Miguel Angel Godinez, Casio Luiselli; Ambassadors Carlos Gonzalez Parrodi, Raul Valdes and Miguel Marin; and Rafael Izquierdo and Abel Quezada.

8926

CSO: 3010

GROWTH EXCEEDING SEVEN PERCENT SEEN AS UNLIKELY

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 27 Jan 81 p 8

[Text] Victor Manuel Bernal Sahagun, of the Institute for Economic Research of the Autonomous National University of Mexico (UNAM), said yesterday at a press conference that the problems of unemployment will continue, workers' real income will deteriorate, and the process of centralization of capital and the unequal distribution of wealth will be accentuated in 1981.

He added that inflation will not drop below 24 or 25 percent, and it is possible that there will be a deterioration of economic relations between Mexico and the United States, as far as economic policy is concerned. He went on to say that there will be pressure to increase the United States' strategic oil reserves at the cost of a greater exploitation of Mexican reserves.

The researcher noted that relations between Mexico and its neighbor could become more difficult because of the policy we have adopted, principally with regard to the Caribbean, Guatemala and El Salvador.

He remarked that United States capital will be received with more flexibility, depending on the attitude of the Mexican Government, but Mexico will always be protected against foreign interests.

Bernal Sahagun indicated that under the present circumstances, it will be difficult for the Mexican economy to grow more than 6.5 percent, or 7 percent at the most.

He stated that oil can no longer continue to grow at previous rates, because there has been an official commitment not to exceed a production level of 2.75 million barrels per day.

"I think," he said, "that before the presidential report for this year, and before we learn the identity of the new candidate for the next term, we will already have reached the oil limit."

4426

ESD: 30111

WORKERS AT ODDS WITH GOVERNMENT OVER WAGES, BONUS

Record Bonuses

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Jan 81 p 3

[Article by Bertram Gilfillan: "St. Kitts-Nevis Biggest Ever Sugar Pay Out"]

[Text]

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, Saturday, (CANA) — Sugar workers in St. Kitts-Nevis were yesterday getting their biggest bonus ever — \$2 802 948 paid out by the Government.

A pay-out comes annually at the end of each crop and is computed according to the earnings from exports.

The local term for the bonus is "Goatwater", but Premier Kennedy Simmonds, speaking on the subject in a broadcast on Thursday, told the nation:

"This year's is not just 'Goatwater', it is the whole goat."

The pay-out is coming in the wake of a meeting between representatives of the Government and the labour union at which the latter argued that the amount of bonus should be decided by the two sides.

However, Premier Simmonds said his Government's position was that "Goatwater" has never been and could not now be made the subject of negotiation.

"This specific bonus is paid directly from the revenue derived by Government from the export of sugar", he emphasised.

Premier Simmonds also said that "as a result of a decision taken by Government, port workers will also be receiving this special bonus".

Rejecting the union's contention that it too should have a say on how much "Goatwater"

is paid, the Premier said: "It would be ridiculous for anyone to expect that the money collected, for example, by the Customs employees should be used exclusively for their benefit, or that all the money collected at the airport would be used for airport workers".

The Government, he added, reserved the right to use revenue to provide the many services required by the nation, and finance budgeted programmes.

The union had been insisting that the bonus should approximate at least 31 per cent of the sugar workers' earnings last year.

Overall, the sugar workers were getting 15 per cent of their earnings as bonus.

The Premier reminded that in 1978 the labour union's leaders were in Government just 7 per cent of wages was paid as the bonus.

That represented a substantial drop under the 25 per cent of the previous year. In 1979, the final year of the Labour Government, the bonus was 5 per cent of wages.

Describing the pay-out as unprecedented, Premier Simmonds calculated that what his Government was now giving after only one year in office was half a million more than the total bonus for the previous three years.

Wage Issue

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] Baseterre, St. Kitts, Sunday. (CANA)--The St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union and the Government are at loggerheads over the wage increase for sugar estate and sugar factory workers for the 1981 sugar crop to commence here on February 2.

While the union officials had originally proposed an overall increase of 50 per cent, representatives of the National Agricultural and the St Kitts Sugar Manufacturing Company countered by offering an increase of two and a half per cent on basic wages at the start of crop, together with two later payments each of two and a half per cent making an overall increase of seven and a half per cent.

The union on Wednesday this week, after two and a half hours of discussions with sugar industry officials, rejected the two and a half per cent hike.

Yesterday industry officials again met and notified the union that they were willing to offer a nine and a half per cent increase.

CSO: 3025

BRIEFS

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LOAN--Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Sunday (CANA)--Trinidad and Tobago yesterday announced approval of a loan of EC\$4 million to the government of St. Kitts-Nevis. It will go towards the financing of several major projects, including the construction of a deep water harbour at Basseterre, an official statement said. At its regular meeting last week Cabinet agreed to the loan, on the recommendation of government's Caribbean Aid Council (CAC). The loan has been approved for a 20-year period, with four per cent interest and a five-year grace period. According to an appraisal prepared by the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) the deepwater project is estimated to cost EC\$23.2 million. Two loans, totalling EC\$17.9 million were made to the government of St. Kitts-Nevis by the CDB. The Trinidad and Tobago Cabinet has also agreed that Edward Brathwaite, Permanent Secretary, now on assignment to the CAC should discuss with the CDB details of a system of disbursement and payment of the loan. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 12 Jan 81 p 3]

ANGUILLA ISSUE--Basseterre, St. Kitts, Sunday (CANA)--Former St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla Crown Counsel Henry Browne who is now a practising barrister here, Friday night called on government to address itself to the crucial issue concerning the separation of Anguilla from the rest of the state. Britain last month granted legal separation to the 35-square mile island which revolted from the three island state in 1967. The revolt was spearheaded by Ronald Webster who is now chief minister. Browne who is from Nevis, was making his maiden political speech at Greenland's Park in central Basseterre from the platform of the Opposition St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party which was holding its first meeting for the new year. He told the huge crowd amid intermittent showers that from the time Anguilla had been separated, the government has not regarded the dismemberment "as sufficiently important" to explain to the citizens the legal political and economic implications of the separation. "Surely," Browne said, "such a separation must have a heavy impact, not only on the territorial integrity of the state, but on the St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla Constitution Order 1967, other laws and all the institutions be they legal or civic as they used to operate within the three-island state. Browne added that the government should seek to understand the complexities of running what is not left of the former three-island state. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 12 Jan 81 p 3]

SUGAR EARNINGS--Basseterre, St. Kitts, Sunday (CANA)--St. Kitts-Nevis raised \$49.5 million from sugar exports last year, government officials reported yesterday. The earnings were \$20 million revenue for the previous year, the officials said. In 1980 the government sold 35 000 tonnes of sugar. Officials said the better financial performance was due to higher prices on foreign markets.

The 1981 harvest is scheduled to begin at month-end. Meanwhile, the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union has called for a 50 per cent increase in wages for sugar workers. It has also criticised government's failure to meet its demands last year for a 25 per cent of wages special bonus to the workers. The government offer was a 15 per cent bonus. The bonus for 1980 is expected to be paid on January 15. An estimated \$25 million will be shared out then. [Text]
[Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 12 Jan 81 p 11]

CSO: 3025

RIVAL FACTIONS OF RULING SLP VIE FOR CONTROL

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 Jan 81 p 8

[Article by Guy Ellis]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Thursday, (CANA)--Rival factions of the divided ruling St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) are on the campaign trail, lobbying support for a crucial party convention in March to resolve a controversy over its leadership.

A meeting of the SLP's top brass last month at the request of seven of its 17 constituency groups, decided that a special conference should be held March 28 to decide the leadership issue which is as old as the Government itself.

Prime Minister Alan Louisy is being challenged by Foreign Affairs, Trade and Tourism Minister George Odum.

The SLP took a 12-5 election victory in July 1979 and Louisy gave an undertaking to serve as Prime Minister for six months and then take up the job of Governor-General Odum, nearly 20 years his junior, would have become Leader of Government. But Louisy, a former High Court judge, changed his mind, saying he feared the direction St. Lucia would take if he stepped down. Since then, except for a brief spell of peace following an agreement last July, a heated and often hostile debate has raged.

Odum's chief aide, Agriculture Minister Peter Josie once warned the Prime Minister against calling fresh elections. And the Government has lost the services of Attorney-General Winston Cenac, who resigned in disgust over the controversy.

Ironically, it was Louisy who helped negotiate Odum's admission into the SLP before the 1974 general elections after Odum failed in attempts to launch his own party.

Louisy is adamant about not giving up the post. He told the nation recently, "I have no intention of surrendering the office of Prime Minister of St. Lucia to anyone...unless the method laid down in the constitution (of St. Lucia) is adhered to."

He said that people were spreading lies, propaganda and rumour about him, and warned that if his fall was brought about on that basis, the entire administration would fall along with him.

Some members of the central executive have called for Louisy's resignation both as Prime Minister and leader of the party.

They said there was an urgent need to reorganise the machinery and operations of both Government and party because neither had been working effectively since the election victory.

Odlum has hailed the decision for the March 28 gathering as "a triumph for democracy."

He said: "This new move will definitely bring about some change in the party and allow the democratic process to become operative."

It will be the first big gettogether of SLP members since January 1977.

On that occasion, Louisy fought off a challenge for the party leadership against two opponents, including Odlum, polling 166 votes to the latter's 131. Former SLP leader Kenneth Foster, now a member of the Louisy faction, collected 64.

If Louisy fails to gain reelection in March as party leader, he would be expected to resign from the Prime Ministership. Should he claim that his defeat was brought about by lies, propaganda and rumour then a new crisis could develop.

Many observers feel that if the crunch came and the convention unseated Louisy, the Prime Minister would sooner dissolve the House of Assembly than step down.

In December 1979, Louisy, giving reasons for his decision to remain in office, indicated that he had been worried "about the anxiety and undue haste" with which Odlum had been extending relations with Cuba.

Further, he claimed, Odlum had, without the authority of Cabinet, subscribed St Lucia's name to a joint statement with Jamaica, Guyana and Grenada condemning US President Jimmy Carter's stand on the security of the Caribbean.

Odlum claims Louisy has performed poorly as Prime Minister, and that was why he persists in his struggle for the leadership.

Mr Louisy contends that if he were inefficient, there is nothing to show that his opponents would be any better, since the main sectors of the economy--Trade, Industry, agriculture and tourism are in the control of Odlum and Ministers loyal to him.

Throughout the controversy, Louisy has been target of public attacks by his opponents in the Government. In the campaign to woo the 350-odd delegates at the March convention, the war of words is expected to intensify. [as published]

Odium's CRUSADER newspaper waded into Louisy in the most recent onslaught called "An analysis of Labour's paralysis."

The rousing victory in 1979 was inspired "more by the thorough groundwork and campaign strategy of Odium and his faction than by Louisy and his faction," it said.

The paper claims too that "the Odium faction in Government is more talented and competent than the members of the Louisy faction."

"It is irrelevant to concern ourselves with the validity of reasons adduced by Louisy for deciding not to honour the agreement. There is more value in establishing how the content had changed from focusing on the agreement, when it became obvious that Louisy had no intention of vacating the Prime Ministership, to establishing the individual claims to leadership.

"So the party is now forced to face the stark truth that far from taking the country on the road to change and greater efficiency, it has only succeeded in entrenching a traditional bourgeois respect for status, class and mediocrity symbolised in the judge's woolsack.

"Any leader who cannot elicit support and cooperation from his colleagues on the basis of respect, viability, charisma or sheer admiration for his ability must resort to the dreaded spoils system as an instrument for ensuring the loyalty of his colleagues. Everyone knows that in the corridors of power, the spoils system, like jealousy feeds on itself.

"This is the paralysis which has afflicted the Labour Administration. St Lucians must decide whether compromise will solve it, or whether principle should prevail," the Crusader said.

CSO: 3025

COMMERCIAL BANK OPENS, PLANS TO ISSUE PUBLIC SHARES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Jan 81 p 9

[Text] Castries, Saint Lucia, Wednesday, (CANA)--The Saint Lucia National Commercial Bank (NCB) began operations here on Monday.

The bank, which is to have a development wing later in the year, has an authorised share capital of \$10 million (US \$3.7 million) and a paid-up capital of \$3.1 million (US \$400 000).

At the opening ceremony Prime Minister Allan Louisy announced that it was planned to allow the public to participate as soon as possible in the ownership of the bank through the issues of shares.

He said: "With this bank Saint Lucia now has in its hands an instrument by which it can influence the flow of money within Saint Lucia, both by way of encouraging savings and by way of utilising those savings in areas where they are most needed or where the benefits serve a far wider sector than at the present time."

Mr Louisy rejected what he said were claims that by opening the NCB the Government was discouraging other commercial banks.

He said: "The NCB will compete on an equal footing with other banks, but no longer will the banking policy of the island be solely dictated by outside institutions whose ultimate goals are not always commensurate with what is desirable in Saint Lucia or whose policies do not take cognisance of our economic disabilities."

Mr Louisy said he felt that the bank would assist Saint Lucia in coming to grips with its economic and social ills, which he pinpointed as a sluggish economy, unemployment, poor and inadequate housing conditions, lack of encouragement for small businesses and low standards of living.

He said: "The NCB can play a significant part in influencing what can be done about these problems."

CSO: 3025

OPPOSITION ULF CONGRESS HEARS PLEAS FOR UNITY

Economic Priorities

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] United Labour Front (ULF) outlined seven major priorities for revitalising the economy of Trinidad and Tobago with a system in which there would be sufficient for all to share and benefit adequately.

The system explained Rep. Basdeo Panday, (ULF-Couva North), re-elected Party Leader, must encourage and promote self-confidence and self-respect and one in which also the fruits of production went to the people who produced; where there would be a humane system of production and a just system of distribution.

Those priorities, Mr Panday said, were firstly "the establishment of an expanded small business sector which would utilise our local skills and the creative talents in the production of goods and services that the nation needs."

Secondly, "with the growing world shortage of food and scarcity in our own country, the establishment of an agricultural sector based on small but economic farms, with proper technical and technological support, adequate markets, access roads and other infra-structural facilities."

He added: "It is important that such farms are given to genuine farmers and not to party hacks as a reward for political support."

Decision Making

Other priorities listed were housing, transport, unemployment, the decentralisation of economic, commercial and social activities based on a well laid out plan for regional development; and the establishment of political institutions that permit the broad masses of the people to have a say in the decisions that govern their daily lives.

Mr Panday said: "Just as there is need to decentralise the economic activity, centralise political decision-making, and local communities should have a say in how their schools, hospitals and other public utilities are run."

The ULF leader said that political reforms that "do not come as a result of the greater uplift of the people are meaningless" as he emphasise the need to "decentralise the decision-making process."

On housing, he said several ways including short term, medium term and long term plans. In the short term, he said, squatters' settlements should be regularised and provided with the basic amenities pending permanent settlement.

Mass Transit

With respect to transport, he said no amount of roads would solve the problem of traffic jams, congestion and the high cost of transport. The commuter problem could only be solved by the introduction of a mass transit system, which could facilitate the movement of both people and goods.

A re-organised economy, Mr Panday said, would provide employment for all who wanted to work "by harmonising the energies of the people to produce what the country needs."

What the PNM had done, he said "is to create activity for the sake of employment, instead of creating employment by promoting productive activity. The result of this senseless approach has been the Prime Minister's Special Works Programme, and the decline of agriculture. What is even worse, is that this ad hocism of the PNM had demoralised and dehumanised a large section of the working population and given rise to what has been referred to as the deteriorating work ethic."

The plan for agriculture, full employment, proper transport and so forth, must not be conceived as separate and distinct programmes but as parts of a total integrated national plan, he said.

While those were some of the major priorities of the ULF, Mr Panday said the question was, "How do we set about translating those plans into reality?"

That is the question and the blunt and simple answer is to remove the PNM and hand over the reins of government to those with the will and capacity for change.

"The record of the PNM has been so appalling that, surely, nobody else can do worse, except, of course, another faction of the PNM, but then again, that is not really somebody else, that is still the PNM, and, as Mr Dookeran said, his mother would say the second attack of the flu is always worse than the first."

He declared: "Everywhere you turn the cry is the same, '25 years of PNM is far too much,' yet we the people have failed to bring about the desired change."

Mr Panday in calling for opposition unity, said that for the first time since 1956 the PNM is split right down the middle and "We must be ready for the collapse of the PNM. We must do all in our power to unite the progressive forces in genuine opposition to the PNM. Not merely people who can, at least, agree upon the general direction of the society."

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

"OPPOSITION unity is the key. We must unite now!" This is the challenge which Mr. Basdeo Panday, re-elected leader of the United Labour Front (ULF), laid down as he delivered his "acceptance speech" during the closing session of the party's fourth annual congress at Rienzi Complex in Couva on Saturday night, before a large gathering.

In attendance were representatives of Tapia House Movement, Democratic Action Congress (DAC) and Borough Action Group (BAT), whose principals have been spearheading unity talks since they mounted a forum shortly after the local government elections in April.

Mr. Panday was given a standing ovation before and after his address, the latter with distinct enthusiasm as he ended by designating 1981 "The Year of Victory."

He told the gathering: "Never before has the sweet smell of victory been so strong. Never before has the possibility of change seemed so real. We must prepare ourselves to receive that victory. We must unite. We must unite now."

MUST COME

He added: "We must have the capacity to sink our petty differences that have kept us apart. If we proceed on the basis of respect for one another, unity is bound to come. And with unity, as night follows day, victory is assured."

Before Mr. Panday had spoken, representatives of All-Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union, (Senator Nuevo Diaz), DAC, (Dr. Martin Sampath) and Tapia House Movement (Mr. Lloyd Best) brought greetings from their respective organisations, and Mr. Best particularly emphasised the same demand: "the politics of alliance, the politics of unity, the altogether new politics of the party of parties."

Mr. Panday told the delegates it was with humility that he wanted to thank them for electing him for another term as leader of

the party. "I pray to God that He will give me the courage, the strength and the wisdom to live up to your expectations. This is going to be a year of decision."

DECISIVE YEAR

It was going to be a "year of decision, not only for us as party supporters, but for the country as a whole, and for the Caribbean and the hemisphere. Nineteen eighty one is going to be a crucial year."

"Because of the geopolitics in the hemisphere, what happens in Trinidad and Tobago is of concern, not only in the Caribbean, but in Latin America. A heavy mantle, therefore, rests on the people of our country this year."

The Opposition Leader said people of the Caribbean would be watching with keen interest to see what would be done. "To see whether we in Trinidad and Tobago, like our neighbours, have the capacity for change, and it is incumbent upon us to indicate clearly where we stand, what are our aims, and how we propose to get there."

The ULF leader said between 1973 and 1981 Trinidad and Tobago experienced a rapid increase in revenue, due almost entirely to the oil and gas boom.

In 1974, he said, revenue from oil was \$756 million, and in 1980, four billion dollars, total revenue rising from \$923 million in 1974 to more than \$6 billion in 1980, and with a population of a little more than 1.2 million people, "a visitor to the country would expect to find a society in which all its citizens are physically well provided for, contented and happy."

"One would have expected to find our people, at least, enjoying adequate food and shelter, a people well-clothed and having an adequate supply of water, transport, telephones, electricity, proper roads, health, recreational and education facilities."

"But alas! What do we have? You and I and all of us know that, in fact, the exact opposite is true."

He said in oil-rich Trinidad and Tobago, tens of thousands of youths were unemployed, had become so alienated from the society that many had "opted out of it."

ILL-EQUIPPED

They were "too ill-equipped to be employed, even if they wanted work" and had resorted to "drugs and fade to escape the frustrations that engulf their everyday lives."

That feeling of helplessness had, in many cases "expressed itself in crimes of violence," and he narrated the upsurge of such crimes between 1962 and 1978.

"We are fast becoming the New York of the Caribbean -- a place where our people no longer feel safe to walk the streets."

Mr. Panday referred also to the rise in prices during the same period and said while the Index of Retail Prices showed the increase between 1969 and 1979 to be 200 percent, he felt it was nearer 300, with the spiralling inflation reducing the standard of living among all classes in the society, and in which "only the speculators have benefited and oppressive rents have become the obacenity of the day."

On the broader economic front, he said productivity continued to fall, "while in the jungle of industrial relations the axe of oppression falls with increasing severity on the working population -- a population that feels its only answer is to retaliate by a withdrawal of enthusiasm. The alienation is everywhere," he told the gathering.

There was frustration even among the supposedly wealthy, and businessmen had become so "insecure that they are moving out their money, in some cases, their homes, to safer lands overseas. Everyone is asking, like calypsonian King Austin, 'When will it end?'"

Mr. Panday said that "not many of us can avoid the question. Why have we come to this? Who is responsible for our frustration and our suffering?"

"If we tend to argue hither and thither, rationalising the most absurd irrationalities, it is because we are afraid to face the truth, and the truth is we are responsible."

"Each and everyone of us in the country, because for 25 years we have allowed the country to be governed by a bunch of people who have not only consistently demonstrated that they are not capable of running the country, but who have displayed an almost total insensitivity to the needs and wishes of the people."

"Yet we, the people, have

persistently refused to face the glaring truth."

The ULF leader told the delegates that the party had a plan, but the question was, "Do you have the will?" He said that ULF was advocating a "new economic order" for Trinidad and Tobago aimed at achieving "greater self-sufficiency and less dependence on foreign capital, foreign consultants, foreign technology and foreign expertise."

The present system of production is one of built in antagonism which alienates the workers from the owners and managers of capital. The ULF advocates a system that encourages and promotes peace and harmony among the stakeholders of production with respect for the rights and dignity of all.

"a system that encourages initiative and effort, self-confidence and self-respect, a system in which the fruits of production redound to the benefit of those who produce."

VIOLENCE ERUPTS AT FEDCHEM AS CONTRACT TALKS CONTINUE

Power Interruption

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpt] Windows of cars were smashed and female employees spat upon during an outbreak of violence outside the entrance of strike-hit Federation Chemicals Limited on Wednesday afternoon.

This was disclosed yesterday by the company. Fedchem charged further that electrical power lines supplying Fedchem and Tringen were sabotaged that same night resulting in the shutdown of the plant.

Since the incident, the Police have stepped up their patrols of the area.

A statement from Fedchem headed, "Intimidation, violence and sabotage at Fedchem," stated yesterday:

"Last night (Wednesday) both electrical power lines supplying Fedchem and the Tringen (51 per cent Government-owned) plants were sabotaged and so far power had not been restored.

"This act of sabotage resulted in the shutdown of the Tringen plant which has been operated by supervisors since the Oilfields Workers Trade Union called a strike against Fedchem on December 7, 1980.

"The Fedchem hydrogen plant, which has been supplying hydrogen to Texaco and CO₂ to the sweet drink industry was also shut down.

"Due to the emergency nature of the shutdown it is possible that serious and costly damage has been done to the \$250 million Tringen plant and to the hydrogen plant.

"There was a big demonstration at our plant gates yesterday (Wednesday) which included the union's President General, Mr George Weekes.

"At 4.30 p.m. staff employees (including many female secretarial and clerical personnel), were accosted by persons on the picket line, as they attempted to leave for home.

"Abusive and threatening language was wildly used, some staff employees were spat on, their vehicles stoned and several car windows smashed.

"Persons taking part in the violence were not Fedchem employees."

It was reported that since Wednesday's violent display, non-striking workers were sacred to return to their jobs yesterday morning. [as published]

Officials of the OWTU could not be contacted for comment, but representatives of both parties met Tuesday night under the chairmanship of Labour Minister Senator Desmond Cartey to resolve their differences generated by negotiations for a new three-year industrial agreement.

Mr David Abdulah, the union's Education and Research Officer, said on Wednesday that the company had hinted at the possibility of modifying its proposals.

Another meeting will be held after the Fedchem team discusses the matter with the company's board, according to Mr Abdulah.

Apology by TTEC

Some of the benefits being sought by the OWTU are: improved health and pension schemes, a housing package and better safety provisions.

Sabotage Finding

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission believes that saboteurs were responsible for sawing down five wooden poles bearing high tension wires to Federation chemicals Ltd. last Wednesday.

The sabotage caused Fedchem, now in the throes of industrial unrest, to shutdown operations completely. Other industries affected on the Point Lisas Industrial Estate include Fertrin and Industrial Gases.

The industries are supplied by two 66KV power lines, one from Penal and the other from Harmony Hall.

Around 9 p.m. last Wednesday, persons unknown used a saw to cut down five wooden poles in sets of two and three near to Fedchem.

The toppling poles bearing lines from Penal and Harmony Hall also brushed against a 12KV line which supplies the area between Couva and Claxton Bay with power. The area was thrown into darkness but within 24 hours power returned on the 12 Kv line.

Mr Leo C. Martin, general manager of TTEC, said yesterday that on Friday one of two 66KV went back in operation so it was possible for Fedchem and others to resume operations.

On the industrial unrest at the Penal and Point Lisas generating plants, Mr Martin said that the company and the union met till late Friday night at the Ministry of Labour to settle the issue of a shorter working week for the operators.

The meeting was adjourned to next Thursday. TTEC, Mr Martin said, sought to get the workers back on the job while the two parties negotiated, but the union--Oilfield Workers' Trade Union--was against the move.

Since New Year's Day, Senior management personnel have been manning the operations at the two southern stations.

Editorial Comment

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Jan 81 p 8

[Editorial: "Time To End This Strike"]

[Text] In their own interest, in the interest of Federation Chemicals and in the interest of the country as a whole, we urge Fedchem workers to end their six-week strike and the OWTU to resume negotiations with the Company either directly or within the conciliatory machinery of the Ministry of Labour.

In the light of the comprehensive statement made by the Company, published in full-page newspaper advertisements, we cannot see what can be achieved in positive terms by prolonging this strike.

In fact, circumstances and events surrounding this disruptive dispute have begun to assume an ominous colouring and we sincerely hope that workers, whatever their grievances, would not allow themselves to be used as counters in election-year political games.

We do not want to repeat the Company's statement here and we trust that it has been read and carefully digested by the majority of our citizens and workers. Obviously the Company feels that the weight of public opinion should have some bearing on this matter. Comparing Fedchem's account with Union charges, we ourselves are hard put to see how this strike can honestly be justified.

Indeed, there is one aspect of the Fedchem statement that we find particularly distressing--that after 25 direct negotiating sessions between the company and the Union, and after a two-month period in which Ministry conciliators worked hard to resolve all but two outstanding matters, union negotiators went back to the membership and the immediate result was a call to strike!

There must be something horribly wrong about all this.

Wasn't the Union's negotiating team informing its membership at every step of the way? Didn't the team have representative power and authority to conclude matters over the bargaining table?

Why couldn't the few outstanding issues be referred to the Industrial Court for settlement? Is this bargaining in good faith?

The core of the crisis seems to be the ease with which some Unions think they can send in a team to the bargaining table, the team can agree to conditions of work and pay, then refer to the members and later return to the bargaining table with radically new demands, saying that the team had failed to get ratification of the agreement from its members.

Neither union nor employer ought to be allowed to ask for revision of wages or working conditions agreed to after a long and painstaking process of negotiation.

If it is necessary to legislate to make such agreements binding once reached, then let the necessary amendments to the Industrial Relations Act be made at once.

Federation has charged the Union with negotiating in bad faith. The Union has said nothing plausible to refute this charge.

The Company has charged Union supporters with intimidation and disorderly behaviour near its premises. The Union has denied that such things took place.

The Company has further charged that sabotage of vital electrical power lines has caused the total shutdown of its plants. The Electrical Commission has investigated this and has agreed with the Company's view. The evidence of sabotage was undeniable.

In the light of all these events and, further, in the light of the sabotage of a gate bleed valve at Texaco's installations costing thousands of dollars worth of oil to be wasted, we would urge a spirit of vigilance, good sense and restraint among industrial workers of the South.

As for OWTU's proposed demonstration in Port-of-Spain tomorrow, we would advise its members to consider carefully what is involved. The Union has not made out a serious case for nationalisation of the Company and, in any case, we feel that this is not the proper time for such an appeal to be made.

We must believe that mass emotionalism should play any part in this dispute and we trust that wiser counsel will eventually prevail.

Nationalization Proposal

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpt] Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) massed more than 1,000 protesting demonstrators outside the Whitehall Office of Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams yesterday afternoon calling for the nationalisation of Federation Chemicals Limited.

The crowd of striking workers of Fedchem and their families, and other OWTU members coming from distances as far as Cedros and Tobago, sang union songs while a delegation of the OWTU, headed by President General George Weekes, delivered the nationalisation petition to Mr I. C. Rampersad, the Prime Minister's Permanent Secretary.

In a covering letter to the petition which was read by parliamentarian, Mr Errol McLeod, the union's Vice-President, the OWTU charged that the continued foreign ownership of Fedchem contradicted in the most fundamental way the "dignity of the people."

The document continued:

"We believe that the policy of the Government to have substantial local control of our country's economic affairs" and to achieve a "greater amount of national investment" in sectors "including petrochemicals" needs to be implemented now as regards Federation Chemicals limited.

"We, therefore, call on the Government to nationalise as a step towards people's ownership."

Fedchem's View

Meanwhile, Mr Charlie Barrow, Fedchem's Public Relations Officer, said yesterday he could not see any "great benefits" coming to the country as a whole if the company should be nationalised.

He referred to other nationalised companies in Trinidad and Tobago and commented: "Look what is happening to them."

He mentioned BWIA, Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company Limited, State-owned Caroni (1975) Limited, to name a few.

"No one can doubt that Federation Chemicals limited is efficiently run," Mr Barrow stated.

Another company source said that should Government decide to nationalise it would be a matter for the parent company W. R. Grace, to consider.

Up to late yesterday Fedchem still did not have sufficient power to start back its plants at Point Lisas.

CSG. 3025

1980 DOMESTIC CRUDE, OTHER PRODUCTION REPORTED

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Jan 81 p 4

[Text] Overall domestic production in the first quarter of 1980 was 4.1 per cent less than in the previous quarter but surpassed both the 1978 and 1979 first quarter levels.

Domestic production in the first quarter of last year stood at 104.3, as compared to 108.7 in the last quarter of 1979.

These figures are contained in the Quarterly Economic Bulletin issued by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

The introduction to the bulletin states that the level of domestic production continued to improve in the first quarter of last year, with the exception of oil and sugar, following an increase of 2.9 per cent in the preceding quarter.

Significant output gains were registered in the light manufacturing industry including food processing, printing, publishing, paper converts, drink and tobacco.

In summarising the general production, the bulletin noted that crude oil production fell slightly in the second quarter of 1980 to 212.4 thousand barrels per day.

This level of production was 1.5 per cent below the 215.3 thousand barrels per day produced in the second quarter of 1979.

Total crude oil production in the first half of 1980 amounted to 38.7 million barrels, which was equal to the output for the similar period in 1979.

Refinery throughput by 6.7 per cent during the second quarter of 1980 to 22.4 million barrels after suffering a sharp decline in the previous quarter.

The increase was based entirely on account of the domestic crude input which rose by 2.2 million barrels or 30.6 per cent.

Imported crude for processing fell by 5.8 per cent to 13. million barrels during the quarter.

Fertiliser production improved in the second quarter of 1980. At 200.4 thousand short tons, output was 4.4 per cent higher than in the preceding quarter and almost 20 per cent above that of the second quarter of 1979.

Output of construction materials rose during the second quarter of 1980 with cement production increasing by 8.6 per cent when compared with the first quarter of 1980 but was still 14.3 per cent below the level of the second quarter of 1979.

CSO: 3025

ONR SEEKS 30-YEAR LEASES FOR TENANT FARMERS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Jan 81 p 3

[Text]

THE Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) is calling for 30-year leases for all land and agricultural tenants, to enable them to feel secure on the lands. According to the party's newsletter, these are the main points being outlined by the political leader, Mr. Karl Hudson Phillips, during meetings throughout the country.

The party is also calling for legislation to give tenants the option to purchase rented land at a reasonable price.

ONR's position on land tenancy, as outlined by Mr. Hudson Phillips, provides for Government loans to ensure that the tenant could buy the land if his financial position hampers his ability to do so when given the option.

CONFERENCE SOON

Meanwhile, the party will hold its inaugural conference on Sunday, February 1, at Chaguaramas Convention Centre. Officers of the party will be elected at that conference.

Gennie Tarquin is acting Public Relations Officer.

They will hold the acting appointments until the inaugural conference.

- The party's draft statement of principles — the politics of conscience — is to be formally adopted also at the conference.

Meanwhile, the party has made three acting appointments.

Mr Ferdi Ferreira has been appointed to act as party organiser. His function is to liaise with the officers of the party's branch units throughout the country.

Mr Anthony Isidore Smart has been appointed acting general secretary, while Mrs.

COUNTRY SECTION

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

NEW POLITICAL PARTY--Port of Spain, Trinidad, Friday. (CANA)--A new political party, Majestus Organisation was launched in Trinidad and Tobago today. Leader, Aldwyn Primus told newsmen that the party intends to contest general elections expected to be held this year. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 10 Jan 81 p 1]

CS0: 3025

BRIEFS

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION--Grand Turk, Turks and Calicos, Jan 15 (CANA)--The New Turks and Caicos government has pledged to strengthen the islands' traditional economic pillars, and to create a Development Corporation to ensure greater local participation in development. The pledge was made in the government's first Throne Speech since taking office last November. It was read to Parliament by Governor John Strong. The government said it intended creating a strong, stable economy, "relying on strengthened economic pillars of tourism, tax havens, fishing and light manufacturing industries." A full-pledged Development Corporation is being set up so that more local people will be able to invest in projects here. [Text] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Jan 81 p 4]

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